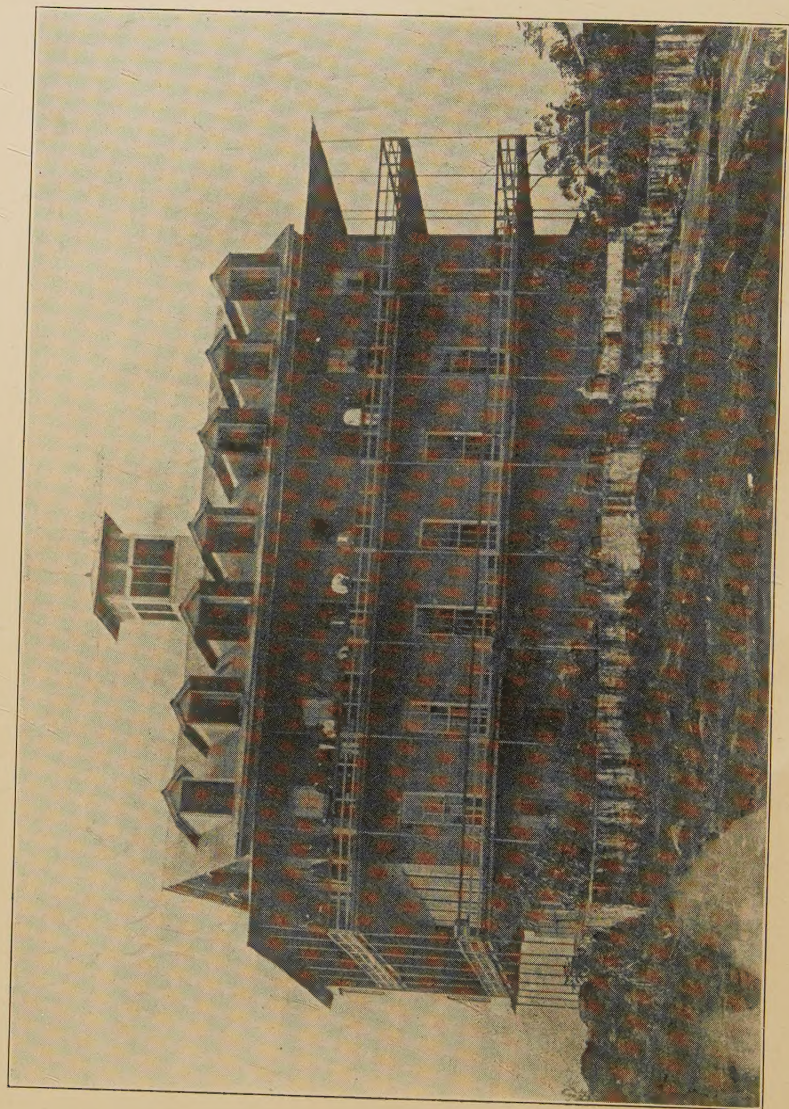




The
Trustees of Donations for
Education in Liberia

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LIBERIA COLLEGE

The
Trustees of Donations for
Education in Liberia

A Story of Philanthropic Endeavor
1850-1923

By GARDNER W. ALLEN

Boston, Massachusetts

1923

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PREFACE

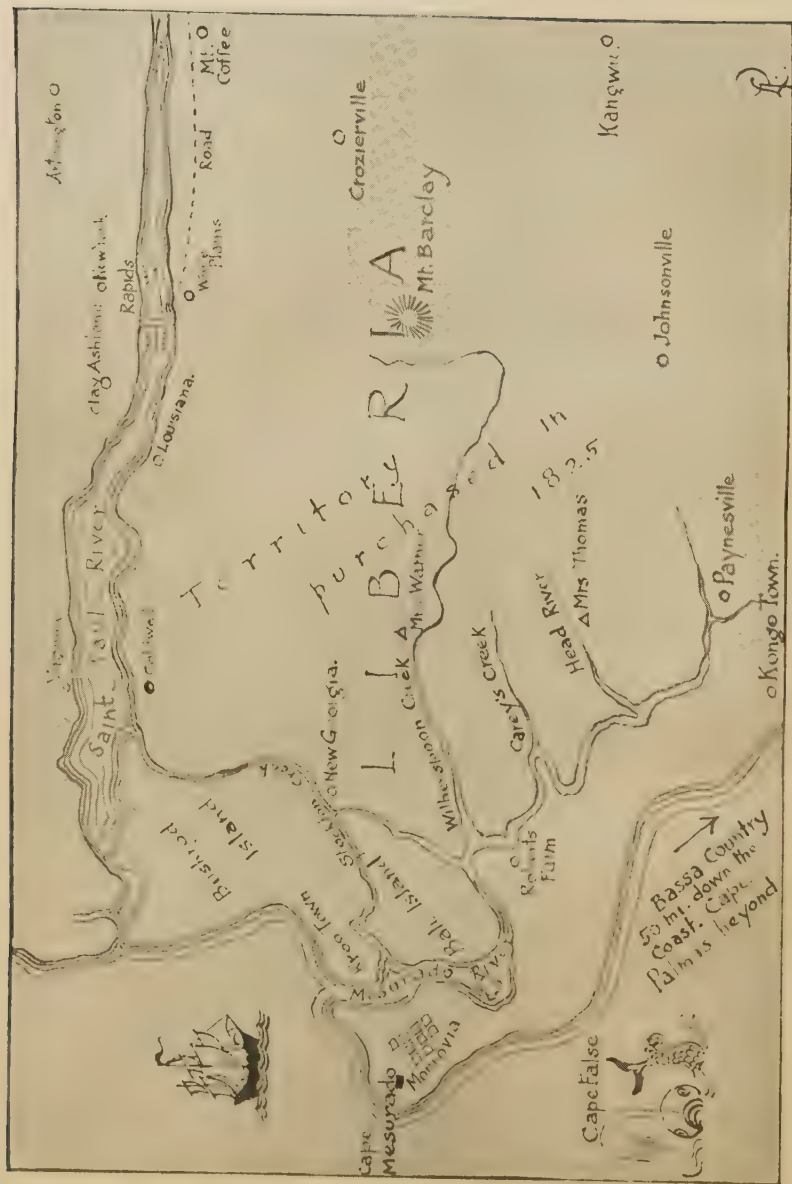
A FEW years ago the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia decided that their work, which had been going on quietly for seventy years, was of enough interest and consequence to warrant being put on record. They believed that the unselfish devotion of the organizers and past members of their body to a worthy cause ought to be made known.

This task was first undertaken by Lindsay Swift, Esq., a member of the Board. At the time of his death in September, 1921, Mr. Swift had examined and arranged much of the material and had taken notes, but had not begun composition. The loss of his literary skill and characteristic style in the preparation of this sketch is very seriously felt.

The importance of higher education in Liberia is as urgent today as it was in 1850. The prosperity of that little country, which has had immense difficulties to contend with, would benefit America and the world and would be promoted by larger numbers of educated men and women, fitted to administer its affairs.

The writer gratefully acknowledges the valuable assistance and advice received from Charles K. Bolton, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

BOSTON, January, 1923.



MAP OF MONROVIA AND VICINITY.

■ Site of Liberia College

THE TRUSTEES OF DONATIONS FOR EDUCATION IN LIBERIA

I.

THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY

THE project of restoring free Negroes in the United States to Africa seems first to have been suggested in August, 1773, in a circular issued by the Rev. Samuel Hopkins and the Rev. Ezra Stiles, of Newport, Rhode Island. Various plans were proposed in later years until, on December 23, 1816, the constitution of the American Colonization Society was adopted at a meeting held in Washington, D. C. The first officers of the society were chosen January 1, 1817. The questions of slavery and abolition did not come within the scope of the society's activities and interests. The first President was Bushrod Washington, and many other slave-holders—including Henry Clay, a later president of the society—were leaders in promoting the objects of the organization. Branch colonization societies were established in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and a number of other states.

The first colonists were sent in 1820 to Sherbro Island, Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, where a settlement was made. But two years later it was moved to the mainland and farther down the coast, at Cape Mesurado, where the town of Monrovia was founded. The country was called Liberia and became an independent nation in 1847. First and last, between fifteen and

twenty thousand emigrants from the United States have been sent to Liberia by the American Colonization Society and its branches, besides over fifty-seven hundred Negroes recaptured from slave-ships by the United States Navy.

The lot of the free Negro in America was difficult and unhappy at best. He was generally disliked both North and South, and was sometimes kidnapped and returned to slavery. Hence the proposal of deportation was popular. Nevertheless, funds for the purpose were grudgingly contributed and the number of persons actually sent to Liberia from the beginning has been comparatively small. The idea of educating and improving the condition of freedmen in the United States also interested many. General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, by his will dated May 5, 1798, and admitted to probate August 14, 1842, left all his property in the United States for the purchase, emancipation, and education of slaves.¹

II.

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Liberia is situated on the west coast of Africa, between the fourth and ninth parallels of north latitude and the seventh and eleventh meridians of west longitude. It is unhealthy, especially for white people, but has important though undeveloped natural resources. In 1850 there were about three hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom seven or eight thousand, being immigrants from America, could be called civilized; the others were natives living in the forest. Adjoining Liberia on the south-east, and after-

¹ MS. Collections of the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia.



MONROVIA IN 1858

wards united with it, was the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas. Monrovia, near the mouth of the Mesurado River on a hill eighty feet high, is the capital of the Republic. According to the description of a traveler in 1855, "the dwellings of many of the citizens of Monrovia are not only comfortably, but elegantly, and some of them richly furnished; and some of the residents of this little bustling metropolis live in a style of ease and affluence which does not comport with the contracted views of those persons who regard a residence in Africa as necessarily associated with the almost entire privation of the good things of this life."¹ The population of the town was then about fifteen hundred, and in 1920 about six thousand. The present population of Liberia is estimated at one and a half to two million, including twelve thousand American Liberians; the area of the Republic at thirty-five to forty-one thousand square miles.

Education in 1850 was in the hands of various Protestant missions, of which the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Episcopalian were the most important. These missions seem to have maintained more than fifty schools with about twelve hundred pupils, most of them probably of low grade. The most notable schools were the Alexander High School and the English High School, of about thirty and fifty scholars respectively; both were in Monrovia and both were Presbyterian. A Methodist High School, also at Monrovia, was soon afterwards established, and the High School of the Protestant Episcopal Mission at Cape Palmas was in successful operation.

The first president of Liberia was Joseph Jenkins

¹ Newspaper clipping, November, 1855.

Roberts, who was born of free colored parents at Petersburg, Virginia, March 15, 1809. He emigrated to Liberia early in life and soon became a leading citizen of the new country. He had a fair education and was a man of exceptional ability and character, and was afterwards president of Liberia College. Another remarkable man at this time was the Rev. Harrison W. Ellis, principal of the Alexander High School. "While a slave in Alabama and working at his trade as a blacksmith, he acquired all the education in English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Theology which is required for ordination as a Presbyterian minister."¹

The British colony of Sierra Leone, bounding Liberia on the north, was founded in 1787. The first settlers were slaves from America who had served in the British army and navy during the Revolution. A large majority of the population, however, were Negroes recaptured from slave-ships by British cruisers.

III.

HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO

The Massachusetts Colonization Society was organized May 26, 1841. The Rev. Joseph Tracy was secretary. About 1848 the subject of higher education in Liberia began to interest members of the society, particularly the president, the Hon. Simon Greenleaf; and in the spring of that year Mr. Tracy wrote the following letter to the president of the American Colonization Society:

¹ First Annual Report of the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, p. 12.

"Colonization Office, Boston, April 14, 1848.

"Hon. H. Clay

"Sir:

"A few gentlemen of this city have a project under consideration, which, if successfully executed, may have very important consequences. It is the establishment of a well endowed College, or University, in Liberia. That such an institution cannot be brought into full operation at once, but must be a work of time, is with them no ground of discouragement, but rather a reason for beginning soon.

"The details of the plan will of course be arranged gradually, as information and experience show what they need to be. At present, it is thought best that the funds should be kept here, in some safe investment, and the annual income expended in Liberia. Buildings, teachers, and other means of instruction will be furnished at first on a moderate scale, but sufficient to meet all existing wants, and enlarged as fast as can be done advantageously, till the means are provided of giving, to any desirable number of students, a thorough literary, scientific, and professional education.

"Such an institution is thought to be the more needed, as there is now no place in the whole wide world, where colored youth can pursue such a course of education without serious disadvantages. Its first students, of course, will be from the families of the emigrant population of Liberia, and few in number, but the youth of the large native population must in a few years begin to seek its benefits; and if successful, it can hardly fail to attract

students from the United States, and perhaps from other parts of the world. If this can be done, a state of feeling towards Liberia will be produced, which will ensure for that Republic, all that its most ardent friends have ever hoped.

"The names of the gentlemen who have this project under consideration are a sufficient pledge against rashness, or feebleness, or fickleness, or parsimony, in the execution. It may be sufficient to name the Hon. S. Greenleaf, LL.D., who is at the head of the Law School at Cambridge, as the projector, and the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, as among those who have it under favorable consideration. Professor Greenleaf is President of the Massachusetts Colonization Society.

"I take the liberty to intrude upon you with this statement, because, if the project meets your approbation, a few words from you might do much to secure its accomplishment; and because, if the thing is to be done, we should highly value any advice you may give as to the manner of doing it. By giving the subject such consideration as other duties permit, and communicating the result, you will confer a great favor on

"Yours, with great respect,

"Joseph Tracy,

"Sec. Mass. Col. Society."¹

At the eighth annual meeting of the Massachusetts Colonization Society, May 30, 1849, the president, Mr. Greenleaf, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

¹ MS. Collections of Trustees of Donations. No reply to this letter has been found among the papers of the Trustees.

"Whereas the Republic of Liberia ought to have within itself the means of educating citizens for all the duties of public and private life,—among which means a College is indispensable;

"And whereas the greater part of the funds for the support of such an institution must be collected, and can be most advantageously invested and managed, in the United States; therefore

"Resolved, That the Managers of this Society be requested, in correspondence with the Managers of the National and State Colonization Societies, to procure, as soon as may be, the organization of a Board of Trustees for that purpose; the said Board to frame its own constitution and by-laws, fill its own vacancies, appoint its own officers, and act in concert with the Government of Liberia, independent of those Societies."

It was thought best that the custody and management of the fund to be raised should be committed to a distinct Board, organized for that purpose. At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Colonization Society held December 6, 1849, the subject was referred to a committee to consider and report. About this time (November, 1849, to February, 1850) Mr. Greenleaf expressed his deep interest in the project in a number of letters to Mr. Tracy.

These proceedings of the Massachusetts Colonization Society were communicated to the National and State Societies and their co-operation was solicited. No official response was received from any of the State Societies. At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Society, January 16, 1850, where the State So-

cieties were represented by their Delegates, the following paper was submitted:

"The Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Colonization Society, in obedience to a vote of the Society passed at its last annual meeting, have appointed a Committee to report on the formation of a Board of Trustees for a fund for collegiate education in Liberia. The Committee have still the subject in charge; and the prospect is, that they will be able to select a small board of gentlemen who will consent to serve, and who will entirely command public confidence, and that some amount of funds will be given.

"The Board and its Committee are perfectly aware that it is impossible immediately to establish in Liberia an institution which would deserve the name of a College in this country; but they are fully persuaded that the work ought to be done as soon as practicable, and that the necessary preparatory measures ought not to be deferred. In this stage of the business, the Board requests such notice from the Parent Society as may best promote this important object.

"By order of the Executive Committee,

"Joseph Tracy, *Secretary.*"

This was referred to a Committee which reported the next day with the recommendation that the following action be taken:

"*Resolved*, That this Board have learned, with much pleasure, that the subject of establishing a College in Liberia has engaged the attention of the Managers of the Massachusetts Colonization Society; and, to the utmost

of their ability, this Board will co-operate in so important an enterprise;—yet they deem it expedient to leave this matter to be matured by their friends in Massachusetts, who have already taken it in hand. . . .

“John Maclean, *Chairman.*”

The report of the Committee was accepted and the resolutions were adopted. Thus the sanction of the American Colonization Society was secured for the project.

IV.

TRUSTEES OF DONATIONS FOR EDUCATION IN LIBERIA

Steps were now taken to organize a Board of Trustees for carrying out the purpose of these friends of higher education of the black man in Africa. At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Colonization Society, February 14, 1850, the committee appointed on December 6 submitted a list of seven names, recommending that they be requested to act as Trustees of Donations. The recommendation was adopted and another committee was appointed to procure from the State Legislature an Act of Incorporation.

The following petition, drawn up by Mr. Greenleaf, was presented to the Legislature:

“To the Honorable, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

“The undersigned respectfully represent, that they have been requested, by the friends of the cause of Education in Africa, and particularly in Liberia, to take charge of any monies that may be given for that purpose, to invest

the same in this country, and to apply the income thereof for the support of a Collegiate Institution, or one or more schools or Seminaries of Learning in the Republic of Liberia.

"They therefore pray that they and their associates may be made a Corporation for that purpose, with competent powers.

"Simon Greenleaf,
"Joel Giles,
"Albert Fearing."

The petition was presented to the Legislature and referred to the Committee on Education, to which was also submitted a bill drawn by Mr. Greenleaf. On February 27, the latter was reported to the House of Representatives. In due time an act¹ was passed, approved March 19, 1850, incorporating "Simon Greenleaf, George N. Briggs, Joel Giles, their associates and successors," with power to hold real and personal estate to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, the income to be expended in promoting collegiate education in Liberia.

On April 27, 1850, the three Trustees held their first meeting, accepted the act of incorporation, and elected four associates. These were Stephen Fairbanks, William J. Hubbard, Albert Fearing, and Amos A. Lawrence. At an adjourned meeting on May 2, further steps towards organization were taken. May 11, a code of by-laws² was adopted and the following officers were elected: President, Hon. George Nixon Briggs, LL.D.; Treasurer, Hon. Stephen Fairbanks; Secretary, Rev. Joseph Tracy.

¹ See Appendix A.

² See Appendix B.

Mr. Briggs was Governor of Massachusetts at the time; Mr. Tracy, though not a member of the Board, was its able and devoted secretary for many years, at the same time continuing as secretary of the Massachusetts Colonization Society. The Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia were now ready for the prosecution of their benevolent enterprise.

The first donation received by the Trustees, and apparently the only one in the first year, was one hundred dollars from Amos A. Lawrence, Esq., increased by him during the following year to one thousand dollars. The fund grew slowly and has never been adequate for the desired purpose.

V.

LIBERIA COLLEGE

In June, 1850, Mr. Greenleaf, at the request of the Trustees, communicated the proceedings relating to the organization of the Board to President Roberts, of Liberia, and added:

"It is obvious that a charter from your Government will be needed for the proposed College, with suitable ground for such buildings as may be required and such patronage and aid towards the erection of buildings, as the Government may be able to bestow. We shall, of course, do nothing more than collect and invest funds, until we receive a communication of your mind on the subject. Whether the instructors shall be appointed by our Board of Trustees, with the concurrent approval of your Government, or by the latter alone, or by the Corporation to

be chartered in Liberia—are questions which you will consider, and favor us with your mind.”

President Roberts replied, September 30:

“I assure you, Sir, I am truly delighted at the prospect of having permanently established in Liberia the means of Education—a Collegiate Education. This subject, more than any other, for many years has given me great concern. I have looked forward to the time, which will surely come and which is rapidly approaching, when, annually, thousands from the United States will be thrown into Liberia, without education or any experience in matters pertaining to government. Such a mass of ignorance flowing in upon us, without some restraining power,—which power can only be created by the education of the youth of Liberia,—would in all probability prove most disastrous to our future hopes. Without education, we have no security for the perpetuity of our government or our free institutions. An intelligent community only can maintain a republican form of government. . . .

“These thoughts have constantly occupied my mind and have weighed heavily upon me. And for relief my eyes have long been turned towards the United States—towards New England and Massachusetts in particular. I thank God I have not looked in vain. I consider a new era has dawned upon Liberia. . . .”¹

On December 3, 1850, the President delivered a message to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, setting forth the needs of the people in the matter of education and the obligations of the Government, and communicating Mr. Greenleaf’s letter. In response the Legislature passed resolutions requesting

the President to inform the Trustees of Donations that a charter for the proposed College would be granted and the other suggestions in Mr. Greenleaf's letter carried out as far as possible.

In the meantime, in November, 1850, the Trustees issued a circular giving a definite statement of their views as to the present need of higher education in Liberia and containing the following: "As Liberia has already a system of Common Schools, established by law and in actual operation, needing only a supply of better qualified teachers, the Trustees will direct their efforts wholly to the higher branches of Education, for which no adequate provision has yet been made."

After President Roberts' message to the Legislature of Liberia, a year elapsed, during which the Trustees of Donations through Mr. Greenleaf had again, July 16, 1851, urged the need of a charter. Thereupon the Legislature passed an act, approved December 24, 1851, establishing Liberia College and incorporating a Board of Trustees, with the necessary powers. The Charter was nearly the same as the best college charters in the United States. The act provided that until the Trustees of the College should otherwise determine, the teachers should be appointed by the Trustees of Donations. It granted to the College one hundred acres of land at Clay-Ashland, on the St. Paul's River about fifteen miles from Monrovia, which at the time was thought to be the best site for a college.

The solicitation of funds occupied much of the attention of the Trustees of Donations during the early years. Money came in varying amounts from a rather small

number of interested persons. In 1851 stocks of a par value of five thousand dollars were received from the estate of Josiah White, of Philadelphia, lately deceased; these stocks were later sold, yielding with dividends more than eight thousand dollars. In 1854, from the estate of Samuel Appleton, of Boston, came stocks to the value of ten thousand dollars. In 1855 the fund in the hands of the Trustees amounted to more than twenty-two thousand dollars, most of it well invested, the rest in the bank.¹

VI.

THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Meanwhile, efforts had been made to organize a Faculty, and there was considerable correspondence relating to eligible candidates for president and professors of the College. One letter, addressed to Secretary Tracy in 1852, is of some interest, although it does not directly concern the College; the writer proposes a school in the United States for the education of Negroes before emigration to Liberia.

In October, 1852, the Trustees of Donations voted to send an agent to Liberia, in order to consult with the Trustees of the College, as to instruction and the erection of buildings, and to gather general information; but no suitable agent was found. The advice of the principals of the two High Schools in Monrovia was then sought. They suggested that these schools should be united, moved to the College lands at Clay-Ashland, and made the preparatory department of Liberia College. President Roberts approved this plan, and in a letter dated

¹ Sixth Report, pp. 9-13.



SIMON GREENLEAF

Founder of the Board of Trustees of Donations
for Education in Liberia

July 11, 1853, stated that the Trustees of the College had organized and accepted the Act of Incorporation. It was understood that they also favored the conversion of the high schools into a preparatory department. This plan, however, was not carried out, owing to various unforeseen difficulties.

The first break in the membership of the Board of Trustees of Donations came October 6, 1853, in the death of the Hon. Simon Greenleaf, a distinguished man and the foremost promoter of higher education in Liberia. He was the originator of the project of establishing a non-sectarian college in that country and the organizer of the Board. His aid in founding a theological school had been solicited by the Rev. J. Payne, an Episcopal missionary in Liberia, but he believed that the great need of the country was a literary and scientific college.

In October, 1854, the Trustees of Donations directed the Secretary to ascertain whether the services of President Roberts could be obtained as their agent for the transaction of business in Liberia. In the course of the correspondence which followed, Roberts was asked, September 12, 1855, if he would take the presidency of the College. He replied, November 17, that he would accept the office if offered, saying that as to teaching, "I do mistrust my ability for efficient service," but "I think I may be able to give instruction in Jurisprudence, International Law, or Political Economy." Having completed his fourth term as President of the Republic and his successor having been inaugurated, Roberts visited the United States at the invitation of the Trustees of Donations, in the summer of 1856, and on July 26 was unani-

mously elected to the Presidency of Liberia College, which he accepted. The salary was fixed at fifteen hundred dollars. Giving his views of policy, he wrote, September 17: "Liberia College must be purely national, in no sense sectarian, and its government entirely free from all denominational control. In which case only can the various missions be brought to unite in its support." The Trustees directed plans and estimates to be procured for a college building.

VII.

CO-OPERATION WITH NEW YORK

In view of the interest in education in Liberia manifested by the New York State Colonization Society, an attempt to bring about co-operation with that body was thought desirable by the Trustees of Donations. It was suggested that the number of Trustees might be increased by the election of some New York men as members of the Boston Board. In the summer of 1856, Mr. Tracy, the Secretary, visited New York for the purpose of consulting with those interested in the subject and attended a meeting of the New York Society. At the meeting the following action was taken:

"Whereas the Board have heard with interest the statement made by Rev. Joseph Tracy, of Boston, relative to the condition of the operations of the Board of Trustees for Education in Liberia,

"Resolved, That we sincerely congratulate them and the friends of Colonization, that they have secured the valuable services of President Roberts.

"Resolved, That as in order to perpetuity and efficiency, the professorships in the College should be endowed, immediate efforts ought to be made to secure funds for this purpose.

"Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to have charge of this subject and prepare a plan, to be proposed for the consideration, and if approved, the action of this Board."

The Committee, of which Anson G. Phelps, President of the New York Society, was a member, was immediately appointed. This Committee, on consultation with Mr. Tracy, decided that on account of the difficulty of regular attendance of New York members at meetings of the Trustees of Donations, it would be better to appoint an Advisory and Co-operative Committee of New York men, to act in concert with the Boston Board and do everything possible to promote the cause. This action was taken by the Trustees of Donations at a meeting held September 5, 1856, and a committee of three was appointed. Co-operation and harmonious relations between the New York State Colonization Society and the Trustees of Donations for the Education in Liberia have continued ever since.

VIII.

THE SITE AND THE BUILDINGS

A college building was the next subject discussed by the Trustees of Donations. Plans were drawn for a brick, three-story building, seventy feet long by forty-five feet wide. A smaller building, containing the kitchen, was also planned. A ship was chartered, ballasted with

brick and loaded with other building material. She sailed December 28, 1856, and arrived in February at Monrovia.

The tract of land at Clay-Ashland, granted to the College by the Republic, proved to be swampy and was thought to be unfit for the purpose. No other suitable site could be found in that region. In July, 1857, it was decided to build at Cape Mesurado, within the city limits of Monrovia. After much delay, due to objections and interference of certain people at Clay-Ashland, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on January 25, 1858. Obstructions continued to be thrown in the way by citizens of Clay-Ashland, who alleged that the charter of the College required its location at their town. This caused another year's delay.

In February, 1858, the Methodist Missionary Society brought forward a proposal for co-operation in the support and administration of Liberia College, but after careful deliberation the plan was considered to be open to many objections and failed to meet the approval either of the Trustees of Donations or the Trustees of the College.

The controversy over the site for the College was prolonged and became more complicated and difficult of solution, and entangled with party politics. It was destined to come up again at intervals, in one form or another, in later times, and has never been settled. President Roberts wrote to Secretary Tracy, May 5, 1858:

"I cannot tell you, my dear Sir, how greatly annoyed I am at the suspension of our College work. Though I have done my very best, I have not been able to accomplish

what I had hoped; nor what the Board had reason to expect. Eighteen months have elapsed and comparatively little has been done; when, indeed, the building ought to have been completed and ready for use. When I think of the foolishness of the people, I am surely vexed and discouraged; and this discouragement embarrasses me much. For I am almost ready to conclude that I can render but little further service to the general interests of Liberia, and I feel quite inclined—should the Board determine to continue their benevolent efforts here for the educational advancement of the people—to ask to be relieved from my engagement. Perhaps their interests can be better served here in the hands of someone else. . . .

“All here are anxiously awaiting the determination of the Trustees of Donations. Will they abandon the enterprise? Will they sustain the Trustees of the College? Or will they direct that the buildings be located at Clay-Ashland? are questions everywhere mooted. . . . How you and the Board feel under these discouraging circumstances, I can scarcely conjecture. To me the whole affair is exceedingly mortifying, and has produced manifestations of character which give me great concern for the future of Liberia.”

Many suggestions were made and rejected, and the delay was seemingly endless. This matter has largely lost interest with the lapse of time.¹ When everything at last appeared to have been arranged and an act had been passed by the Legislature of Liberia embodying the necessary amendments of the laws relating to the College, a trivial misunderstanding between President Roberts, of

¹ For details, see Sixth Report of the Trustees of Donations, pp. 19-24, 26-34.

the College, and President Benson, of the Republic, caused another long delay. The latter took offense at a fancied slight, entirely imaginary, and refused to sign the amendatory act. It was December, 1860, nearly three years after the corner-stone of the College building had been laid, before the difficulty was finally adjusted and the act signed. Work on the building was resumed and the roof was on by April, 1861, before the advent of the rainy season. The whole cost of the building was about eighteen thousand dollars. The amendatory act was accepted by the Trustees of Donations in September, 1862.

The act contained a grant of twenty acres of land in Monrovia, as a site for the College, and also one thousand acres, to be selected by the Trustees of the College from the public domain, in each of the four counties of the Republic.

IX.

THE FACULTY. INAUGURATION

Meanwhile, the selection of a Faculty had been a subject of careful thought and consideration; also of correspondence and consultation with the President and Trustees of the College and with the New York State Colonization Society, which held certain funds for education in Liberia. As the result, the Trustees of Donations, on August 8, 1861, made the following appointments:

Hon. J. J. Roberts, President and Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law.

Rev. Alexander Crummell, Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy and of the English Language and Literature.

Rev. Edward W. Blyden, Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages and Literature.

At the outset the two latter were also to teach Logic, Rhetoric, History, Hebrew, French, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Both of these professors were Liberians, were in the United States in 1861, and had personal interviews with the Trustees of Donations before their appointment. Crummell was a graduate of Cambridge University, England. Blyden, a native of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, went to Liberia at sixteen and was there educated at the Alexander High School. He was proficient in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and French, with a good English style. In 1861, on the eve of departure for Liberia, Blyden writes to Dr. Tracy that he needs money to get there and "to be as free as possible from the corroding and harassing cares of pecuniary embarrassments." The New York State Colonization Society assumed responsibility for Professor Blyden's salary and for pecuniary aid to certain graduates of the Alexander High School who should enter Liberia College.

Nearly four thousand volumes were collected for the library, including six hundred from the Harvard College Library, being duplicates selected by the Librarian, Mr. J. L. Sibley, and presented by the Corporation.

The college buildings having been completed, the Inauguration took place with impressive ceremonies on January 23, 1862. A procession was formed, in which all public officials of the nation and city, including the President of the Republic, took part. It moved to the College, where the exercises of the day took place. The Hon. B. J. Drayton, Chief Justice of the Republic, deliv-

ered the introductory address, and President Roberts the principal address, in which he defends the study of the law and the classics, gives full credit to the Trustees of Donations, and mentions his faculty with high praise, especially that "young giant," Professor Blyden, who also delivered a long address of considerable force, mainly in defense of the classics. Years later he was falsely accused of seeking to remove the study of English from the curriculum, but his defense of classical learning shows the bent of his mind.

Soon after the Inauguration, Professors Crummell and Blyden were appointed by President Benson, of the Republic, members of a commission to proceed to America in order to promote emigration to Liberia. At the same time President Roberts, having obtained leave of absence from both Boards of Trustees, set forth on a trip to England and the United States in the interest of the College and for consultation with the Trustees of Donations on matters of concern to the Trustees in Liberia. All this delayed for another year the opening of the College, although in the meantime instruction was given to about a dozen students by the Rev. E. W. Stokes, afterwards the first Principal of the Preparatory Department. President Roberts had satisfactory interviews with the Boston Board and his visit to America seemed to be of benefit to the College; he returned to Liberia in December, 1862.

X.

OPENING OF LIBERIA COLLEGE

On the day appointed for the opening of the College, February 2, 1863, seven young men, having presented certificates of good moral character, were examined in Greek, Latin, and Mathematics, found qualified, and admitted as students in Liberia College. Three of them were beneficiaries of the New York Colonization Society; the others were able to pay their own expenses. Three additional students were admitted later. Others, unable to pass the examinations, were rejected.

Some friction at the outset was caused by the refusal of Professors Crummell and Blyden to live in the College building, according to the original plan. Owing to this unfortunate beginning the relations between President Roberts and these members of the Faculty were perhaps never quite so harmonious as would have been desirable. From time to time the absence of professors from their lectures, and their refusal to give any reason or explanation, caused irritation.

The Trustees of Liberia College, in February, 1863, passed resolutions requesting that portraits of the Trustees of Donations be presented to the College.

Co-operation with the high schools of the various missionary societies, as fitting schools, having been found impracticable, it was necessary to establish a Preparatory Department of Liberia College, and a small grant for the purpose was secured from the Liberian Legislature. The Preparatory Department opened its doors in April, 1863, and soon had eight pupils.

At the request of the Trustees of Liberia College, a Committee of the Trustees of Donations prepared a set of rules and regulations for the government of the College, prescribing admission requirements, a course of studies, and other matters. On April 8, 1863, the Committee made a report which was adopted by the Trustees of the College and by the Faculty, with slight changes. These rules were embodied in a pamphlet published at Monrovia in 1864, entitled "The Laws of Liberia College, Enacted by the Board of Trustees." The course of studies was designed to be about equivalent to that of the average American college, with some modifications made to suit the peculiar conditions of Liberia.

The endowment of a Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy having been secured, largely through the efforts of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, Martin H. Freeman, Principal of the Avery Collegiate Institute of Pittsburgh, was appointed to fill it. Among the resources of the New York Colonization Society was the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, bequeathed by Joseph Fulton for the benefit of Liberia College; this had increased by January, 1864, to twenty-nine thousand. Thereupon the Fulton Professorship was established, with a salary of eight hundred and fifty dollars, and Professor Blyden was appointed to fill it, with the approval of the Trustees of Donations. Fulton prizes for scholarship were also established. Another foundation under the control of the New York Colonization Society, the Bloomfield Fund, was devoted to scholarships in Liberia College.

The College possessed a library of four thousand



GEORGE NIXON BRIGGS



ALBERT FEARING

Presidents of the Board of Trustees

volumes and a mineral cabinet containing more than three thousand specimens, many of them rare and valuable. The Hon. Albert Fearing, who in 1855 had succeeded Governor Briggs as President of the Trustees of Donations, gave five thousand dollars, in 1864, as a permanent fund for the preservation and increase of the library. Other gifts of valuable books and a pair of globes were received by the College during these earlier years.

The relations of Liberia College to distant parts of Africa received attention. Merchants from Mohammedan tribes speaking Arabic occasionally visited Monrovia and from them President Roberts obtained Arabic manuscripts. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions contributed Arabic books. All this material was to be made use of as a means of opening a literary intercourse with the Mohammedan nations. At the same time steps were taken to establish a literary correspondence with the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut. The great results anticipated from this movement have probably not been fully attained; and the hope that a professorship of Arabic might be endowed has never been realized.

The second academic year of Liberia College began in February, 1864, with about the same number of students. The Sixth Report of the Trustees of Donations says: "Thus, after so many years of patient, careful, hopeful labor, after overcoming such obstacles and discouragements, Liberia College is established and in successful operation."

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations in January, 1865, the appropriation of twenty-five

hundred dollars by the American Colonization Society, towards the support of the College, was announced. The salaries of the professors were raised from eight hundred and fifty to one thousand dollars. The death of the Hon. William J. Hubbard, an original member of the Board, was reported and the Hon. Emory Washburn, former Governor of Massachusetts, was elected in his place. Up to the date of the publication of the Sixth Report, in April, 1865, the donations and bequests already received by the Trustees amounted to over forty thousand dollars.

President Roberts, in a letter to the Trustees of Donations dated July 31, 1865, says that it would be very desirable to board the students in the College building, not only on account of the occasional heavy rains, "but also to enable us to maintain stricter guardianship over their morals and general deportment." The high price of foreign provisions, however, prevents this. According to the "Laws of Liberia College" above mentioned, "all students shall be required to reside in the College Building." Evidently, for the reason given by President Roberts, this regulation had not yet been put in force. In other letters of the same year the President expresses himself as very well pleased with Professor Freeman, but intimates that relations with Professor Crummell are not so agreeable. Professor Blyden was appointed Secretary of State of the Republic and Roberts thinks that this interferes with Blyden's work in the College.

XI.

TROUBLE IN THE FACULTY

A special meeting of the Trustees of Donations was held June 29, 1866, to discuss a difficulty that had arisen in the Faculty of Liberia College, as set forth in many letters and documents from President Roberts, the professors, and the Trustees of the College. It appeared that Professors Blyden and Crummell had given offense by repeated absences from their duties for which they refused to give explanation. This was one of a series of unpleasant occurrences of the sort. The Trustees of the College attempted to discipline the professors by withholding their salaries. This was considered inexpedient by the Hon. Emory Washburn, whose opinion was asked and who said some time later:¹ "It seems to me to be an unwise policy for the Trustees of a college to deal with a delinquent professor as if his services were merely mercenary." As to removal from office, President Roberts had written to Dr. Tracy, March 4, 1866: "With regard to the question respecting the power of the Trustees of Donations to remove an officer of the College, I am decidedly of the opinion—though there may be some little uncertainty—that according to the Charter, that power is vested wholly in the Trustees of the College."

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Trustees of Donations, July 11, 1866, it is reported in the Records: "The Trustees then took up the documents from the Executive Committee and the Professors of Liberia College; and after full consideration of them and careful inquiries of the Hon. B. V. R. James, one of the Execu-

¹ October 8, 1866.

tive Committee, who was present by special request, the opinion was unanimously expressed, that the connexion of Professor Crummell with the College ought to cease, and that no action should be taken on the case of Professor Blyden, unless after correspondence with the New York Colonization Society, by whom his salary is paid."

Three months later President Roberts wrote to Dr. Tracy¹ that in case of Professor Crummell's resignation, he might be replaced by Hilary R. W. Johnson, but "Professor Blyden's place cannot be so easily filled; he is, unquestionably, the best linguist in the Country, and a good teacher of languages. Would that he had a little more Common Sense." Crummell resigned in November and the following year the appointment of H. R. W. Johnson was made, on the recommendation of President Roberts. Meanwhile Blyden had seen the error of his ways and on January 28, 1867, wrote to Roberts: "I confess I was wrong. I most deeply regret it and hope that the Executive Committee will accept my earnest apology."

Some were of the opinion that jealousy between blacks and mulattoes was at the bottom of all this trouble. Blyden and Crummell were pure Negroes while Roberts was of mixed race. Blyden's feeling on this subject, as expressed in many letters, was very strong. It was to cause further difficulties in the future.

Professor Johnson had been in office hardly two years before he became involved in the same trouble—a long controversy with the Trustees of the College in regard to absences and other delinquencies. The matter was referred to the Trustees of Donations for advice. A committee was appointed to consider the matter, which re-

¹ October 10, 1866.

ported at a special meeting, August 19, 1869: "... And while the Committee have not assumed the province of pronouncing upon the original causes of disagreement and dissatisfaction between Prof. Johnson and the Trustees of the College, because they do not deem it a matter referred to them, they do see, in the spirit and language of the correspondence between them, on the part of Prof. Johnson, an incompatibility of temper and disposition with his being any longer a useful or desirable instructor or officer of the College." The Trustees of Donations thereupon voted to recommend to the Trustees of the College the dismissal of Professor Johnson. On January 5, 1870, President Roberts communicated the information that Johnson had withdrawn an offensive letter he had written to the Executive Committee, had apologized, and was to be retained in his professorship.

Professor Freeman, who had been born and educated in Vermont, was a man of a different sort and his relations with the authorities of the College were apparently always harmonious. Yet he was decidedly sensitive on the race question. During a visit to America he wrote to Dr. Tracy, October 17, 1867, a week after his arrival: "My mission is to the Negro, pure and simple, as he exists in his Native Land, the best specimen of his race now to be found. And aside from the question of duty to God and my race, it is a question of comfort, of happiness, and of self-satisfaction in my case. I have never been happy until I made Liberia my home. Not even in my childhood, for my recollection does not recall a time when I was not aware of my true status as a Negro in this country. I have suffered more during the week past in this country

than all the horrors of African fever and the discomforts of poverty—in a word, than all that sickness and hunger and all the manifold ills of Africa can inflict. Still I have had but one or two direct insults since I arrived; but the very presence of this mighty civilization in which the Negro is so completely hidden is oppressive.”

Many years later, commenting on the decease of one of the Trustees of Donations, Freeman wrote to Mr. Braman, Secretary of the Board:¹ “I am truly grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Melledge. The kind courtesies, extended to me in 1878 by himself and his interesting family, so entirely free from that patronizing sympathy which so often characterized the bearing of the old abolitionists toward the Negro, are among the few pleasant reminiscences of my late visit to the United States.”

Two matters of interest during these years were the precarious condition of the Preparatory Department of Liberia College and the proposed admission of young women to the College. The difficulty with the Preparatory Department was the lack of pecuniary aid. President Roberts wrote, October 10, 1867: “To close that Department at the present time would be most unfortunate, as just now it is the only reliable source of supply of students for College.” Aid was promised by the Trustees of Donations and in some measure obtained. In the same letter the President approves Dr. Tracy’s plan of “a Seminary for young ladies in some building in the City, where the Professors of the College might lecture to them.” It was several years before provision was made for the admission of girls.

¹ June 13, 1881.

In July, 1871, the resignation of Professor Blyden was announced. He had become involved in a quarrel with President Roye, of the Republic, and had been roughly handled by a mob probably instigated by the President. Blyden left the country soon afterwards. His place as Fulton Professor was filled by the appointment of Professor Freeman.

President Roye seems to have been a politician of a bad sort. A strong party became dissatisfied with his administration and wished for the return of Roberts to the head of the state. The Rev. John B. Pinney, Corresponding Secretary of the New York State Colonization Society, wrote to Secretary Tracy, June 6, 1871: "By letters received today from Liberia I learn that Prest. Roberts has been voted for as next President of the Republic. It may involve a civil war, but at the best, it seems likely to interfere with his continued Presidency over the College."

A political crisis came some months later. Great corruption in the Administration was disclosed. President Roye was deposed and imprisoned. Many officials were impeached, some convicted of treason and executed. Roye escaped from prison and on attempting to swim through the surf to a boat, was drowned. Roberts became President of the Republic and the excitement subsided. He continued at the head of the College without pay.

XII.

A GENEROUS DONATION

Meanwhile the routine business of the Trustees of Donations had been going forward. In September, 1866, the Hon. Stephen Fairbanks, an original member of the Board, died, and in March, 1869, occurred the death of Mr. William Ropes, the earliest member not on the original list. The next two or three years were comparatively uneventful, and several meetings of the Trustees were adjourned for lack of a quorum.

At the annual meeting in January, 1873, Secretary Tracy presented a report for the preceding year: It has not been necessary to make any changes in the officers of Liberia College because of President Roberts being elected President of the Republic. The Trustees of the College have confirmed the appointment of Professor Freeman as Fulton Professor, and he now has the Department of Languages as well as of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The Preparatory Department has flourished under Principal A. T. Ferguson. On July 30, there were ten students in the College and thirty-three in the Preparatory Department. Missionaries in Liberia should be educated in the College and Missionary Societies might send students there for training as missionaries, which would be of advantage to all concerned, but the societies would probably be unwilling to give up the training of their own missionaries; they are strongly sectarian. The Treasurer of the Trustees of Donations has been given power of attorney by the Trustees of Liberia College to act for the latter and receive bequests for the College.

In a letter dated April 15, 1873, to the Rev. John Orcutt, General Secretary of the American Colonization Society, Dr. Tracy called attention "to the good that would result to the College, to Liberia, and to Presbyterianism in Liberia, by making the College their school for the literary and scientific training of the missionary laborers."¹

At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations in February, President Fearing, of the Board, submitted the following communication:

"Boston, February 14th, 1873.

"To the Trustees of Donations for
Education in Liberia.

"Gentlemen:

"I propose to place in your hands, in your corporate capacity, if you will accept the same upon the terms and limitations which are hereinafter expressed, the sum of Twenty thousand Dollars, to be held, managed, and applied by you and your successors in said trust, in the manner and for the uses and trusts following, that is to say:

"My intention is hereby to express my interest in Liberia College, and to give perpetuity to it as an institution of learning, for promoting a higher education and good scholarship among the young men in the Republic of Liberia. And to that end, I authorize and direct the Trustees of Donations for the time being, to cause said fund of twenty thousand Dollars to be kept safely invested, upon satisfactory and sufficient security, upon interest, and to collect the interest and income thereof, from time to time, and to appropriate and apply the same as it shall accrue, for the use and benefit of said Liberia College, as

¹ Letter Book, IV, 291.

they shall deem best, to advance the interests and promote the usefulness and prosperity of the same, with the restrictions and limitations following, that is to say: No part of said fund or income shall be paid or expended in the purchase or hiring of land or building, or repairing houses or other buildings for said College. Nor shall any part of these be expended or made use of to promote or sustain any one religious sect or denomination, or political party, in preference to another; since the purpose of this donation is to aid in promoting Christian, moral and intellectual culture, independent of party, sect, or denominational distinction.

"It is expressly understood that the terms and conditions on which this proposal is made, and upon which this fund is hereafter to be held by said Trustees and their successors, are as follows, that is to say: They shall, before receiving said fund, by vote duly passed and recorded, accept the same upon the terms and conditions herein expressed, and bind themselves and their successors, thereby, to faithfully keep and perform the several trusts, conditions and terms contained in this communication. In the next place, as soon as they receive said fund, they shall cause this communication, with the vote aforesaid, to be recorded in the Registry of Probate for the County of Suffolk for a perpetual remembrance thereof.

"In the next place, said fund shall become forfeited and forever lost to said Trustees and to said College, and shall by said Trustees be paid over to the Massachusetts General Hospital, to be kept as a permanent fund, and the income applied for the purposes for which it was incorporated, or to such other trusts or uses as I may appoint

and declare by my last will and testament, if the said Liberia College shall cease to act in unison with said Trustees substantially as it has hitherto done, or shall remain suspended as to its usual and appropriate duties, services and functions as a College, in teaching and instructing young men in the departments of scholarship and learning which are properly embraced in a course of liberal education, for the period of three years; or if, in the instruction given in said College, or in its conduct or management, it shall depart from the broad, catholic and liberal Christian plan and system in which it has hitherto been conducted, by aiding or promoting any one religious sect or denomination to the exclusion or in preference of any other Christian sect or denomination; or if said Trustees or their successors shall, in this respect, violate the terms on which said fund is given. And all questions in respect to said forfeiture shall be settled and determined by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, whose judgment thereon shall be final and conclusive.

“Very respectfully

“Your obed^t. serv^t.

“Albert Fearing.”

This letter was received by the Trustees “with a profound sense of gratitude.” “They accept and agree to hold the same upon the terms and conditions contained in said communication, and for themselves and their successors promise and engage to keep and perform the respective duties and trusts therein expressed.” The donor’s “name and his benefactions to the cause of Learning, Civilization and Christian Culture in the Republic of Liberia,

will be held in grateful remembrance, when Africa, with her redeemed and emancipated tribes, shall hereafter, through such agencies, be prepared to take her place among the enlightened, civilized and Christian nations of the earth."

XIII.

DEATHS OF LEADERS

Secretary Tracy was keenly interested in harmonizing the religious differences in Liberia and in bringing about co-operation between the missionary societies of the various sects. In one of the last letters he wrote as Secretary, addressed to President Roberts, March 4, 1874, he says: "I am much engaged now in studying how to complete the Independence of Liberia. Ecclesiastical Independence is a necessity and I think the time for it is near, even if it has not fully come. I fear the evil of the want of it in all matters of Education. I see its hindering influence on the prosperity of the College. I do not know what can be done about it. The influences in favor of perpetuating the present state of things are so many, so various, and so powerful, that it requires extreme prudence to say a word about it safely.

"As bearing on this subject, though remotely, I have been urging the Colonization Society to put their funds for Common Schools into some connexion with the funds and appropriations of your Government for the same purpose, hoping thereby to strengthen the Common School System of the Republic and hoping that your system, thus strengthened, may grow till it is great and strong enough to answer its purpose. It will be a great

thing if the system of Common Schools in Liberia can become a Liberian Institution, instead of being half a dozen foreign institutions operating in Liberia."¹

Dr. Tracy died March 24, 1874. At the April meeting the following action was taken: "*Resolved*, By the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, that in the death of their venerable and excellent Secretary, the Rev^d. Joseph Tracy, D.D., they lament the loss of a valued and esteemed personal friend, while they recall the earnest fidelity, the wise discretion, and the mature judgment with which he devoted his eminent abilities to the cause of Education and Christian civilization in Africa."

At the same meeting the Rev. Andrew Preston Peabody was elected a Trustee. Mr. James C. Braman was elected Secretary at the next meeting.

At a special meeting in June the Rev. E. W. Blyden, who had been a professor in Liberia College, was present with a former student. In answer to many inquiries they freely gave their views as to the management and welfare of the College. As a result, the Trustees decided to communicate with the Executive Committee of the College, "asking for a full statement of its present condition and what obstacles existed to the greater extension of its usefulness."

A letter was accordingly prepared by Mr. Washburn and was sent to the College, enclosing a copy of a letter received from a Committee of the New York State Colonization Society on the same subject.

A special committee of the Trustees of Liberia College replied to this letter February 5, 1875, giving arguments against removal of the College. They believed

¹ Letter Book, IV, 345.

that proximity to Monrovia was not detrimental to the health or morals of the student. The land, while rocky, might be partly cultivated. The building and roads should be repaired. There was great need of books and apparatus. The small number of students was due to poverty and to natural lack of appreciation of education on the part of a people lately slaves. It was hoped that in time a thirst for knowledge would be aroused in the common schools, which, however, were not so good as formerly. The Alexander High School and the Methodist High School had been closed. The Government of Liberia had done all it could for the College.

The Committee of the New York Colonization Society strongly favored removal of the College. The Trustees of Donations wrote again to the Trustees of the College, June 18, 1875: Funds insufficient and restricted to higher education. Interest in the latter, in Liberia, is apparently diminishing. The Trustees of Donations cannot conscientiously ask for funds, or even continue to apply the present funds, to support Liberia College, if the indifference to the institution in Liberia cannot be removed. Would it not be better to invest the funds and hold them until the necessary preparatory instruction can be provided for fitting young men for college and until a proper appreciation of the advantages has been awakened? About this time there was talk of the probable resignation of President Roberts, whose health was not good. It was presumably on this account that he, ordinarily a prolific letter-writer, failed to furnish all the information requested by the Trustees of Donations at this time. The Trustees of the College were remiss in this respect.

The Hon. Albert Fearing, one of the original Trustees and President of the Board for twenty years—the second to hold that office—died, after a long period of ill health, on May 24, 1875. At the July meeting appropriate resolutions were adopted. On February 24, 1876, occurred the death of President Roberts, almost sixty-seven years old—a remarkable man. “Lord Palmerston characterized his state papers as comparing favorably with those he received from other countries.”¹

XIV.

LOW CONDITION OF THE COLLEGE

At a meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held April 22, 1876, which was the adjourned annual meeting, the Rev. Andrew P. Peabody was elected President of the Board. The following action was taken at this meeting:

“Whereas from information from time to time received by the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia they had reason to apprehend that the Liberia College had failed to be of practical utility for the purposes of education in the Republic, whereupon they addressed letters both to President Roberts and the Trustees of the College requesting them to communicate such a statement of the condition and affairs of the College as would enable the Trustees of Donations to form a judgment of the propriety and expediency of continuing to appropriate the income of the funds they hold in trust towards defraying the expenses of supporting one or more teachers in said College,

¹ Rev. John Orcutt, in the *New York Evening Post*, March 18, 1876.

"And whereas after a delay of more than a year, no satisfactory answer or reply to these communications has been made, whereby the conviction of the Trustees of Donations has been strengthened and confirmed that until their apprehensions in this respect are relieved they ought not to apply any part of the funds in their hands, or the income thereof in the payment of salaries of persons in the employment of said College or its Trustees, it is

"Voted by said Trustees of Donations that from and after the first day of October next the Treasurer of said Trustees withhold the payment of any moneys on account of said College until further ordered by said Trustees; and in the meantime that said Treasurer be authorized and directed to invest any income that may arise from funds in his hands, together with the funds themselves, on interest, in some safe and trustworthy manner, that the same may accumulate, until the condition and prospects of said College shall be such as to justify the Trustees in again appropriating such income to the support of the same."

Copies of this vote which were sent to Liberia elicited replies so far satisfactory that at a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held August 26, 1876, it was

"Voted, That the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia communicate to the Trustees of Liberia College their willingness to continue, for the present and till further notice, the pay of the Professors in said College to whose salaries they have hitherto contributed, in the hope that the encouraging statements made to them by the Executive Committee of said Trustees of the College will warrant a continuance of such payments."

During the winter of 1876-77, Bishop Gilbert Haven visited Liberia under appointment of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the request of the Trustees of Donations he made an inquiry into the state of affairs at Liberia College. After his return in the spring of 1877, he made a report at the April meeting of the Board. While in Liberia he had several interviews with Professor Freeman, visited the College building, and met the Trustees of the College. The library of ten thousand volumes was in good condition; the apparatus not so. The Trustees were unanimous against removal to another site; Bishop Haven also believed it better to stay in Monrovia. He thought the President should be a white man and that higher education in Liberia should be more of the Normal School type.

The Rev. John B. Pinney, Secretary of the New York State Colonization Society, also visited Liberia and at the July, 1877, meeting of the Trustees of Donations, at which he and two other members of the New York Society were present in conference, he related his experiences. He emphasized "the entire failure of the Preparatory Department to fulfil its proper function," which accounted for the small numbers applying for admission to the College and resulted in the inability of those who did enter, "to go forward in the regular college course." He quoted discouraging reports of the Examining Committee, showing lack of proficiency of the students in the College.¹ Altogether his account of conditions at Liberia College was not hopeful and after a full discussion it was

"Voted, That we inform the Trustees of the College in Liberia that we will discontinue all appropriations for

¹ Report of the Condition of Liberia College, March 25, 1879, pp. 9-14.

the College, under its present organization, at the close of the present year." It was also voted that the President of the United States be requested to appoint Dr. Pinney minister to Liberia; he had been one of the first missionaries to that country and had served at one time, before independence, as acting Governor.

About the end of the year 1877, Professor Johnson resigned and the Faculty of Liberia College then consisted of Professor Freeman alone.

At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held February 2, 1878, "a letter from William Tracy, Esq., President of the New York State Colonization Society, to the Secretary was read, wherein he stated the want of success of the Board of Control of that Society in finding a suitable person to take the presidency of Liberia College and suggesting that Rev. Dr. Pinney might be sent out for one year to hold that office, performing also the duties of the Fulton professorship, the endowment for which is held by the New York State Colonization Society, provided that the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia would assume the support of Professor Freeman, the present incumbent, during the time while Dr. Pinney might remain in charge of the College."

A month later an agreement was entered into between the New York and Boston Boards, essentially on this basis. In April Dr. Pinney, having accepted his appointment, sailed for Liberia. He was the first white man to hold the Presidency of Liberia College. Professor Freeman visited America a little later. A month after his arrival in Monrovia, Dr. Pinney reported, May 27, 1878, that the people of Clay-Ashland still desired to have the

College moved to that place. Pinney himself was in favor of removal; the Trustees of Donations were opposed.

President Pinney soon returned to America in order to raise funds, and prepared a statement which was discussed at a special meeting of the Trustees in September, and subsequently. He represented that the small results achieved at Liberia College were chiefly due to the poverty of the people. An adequate endowment was needed. The College might be closed temporarily, allowing the funds to accumulate. Pinney had received a letter from General Armstrong, of the Hampton Institute, advising a Manual Labor School in Liberia, and it was suggested that a school of this sort, as a branch of Liberia College, might be established in the interior. This plan was favored by the Trustees of Donations.

A printed, unsigned report on the condition of Liberia College, dated March 25, 1879, begins with a brief history of that institution. It appeared that the death rate among the students, during the early years, was very high. The writer, at a loss for a satisfactory explanation, suggests that "a large proportion of those admitted . . . were very light-colored and, it may be, inherited the white man's unfitness to live near the miasmatic swamps of the sea-coast." In this report arguments for and against removal of the College are presented. One advantage of a site in the country would be the opportunity for training in agriculture. But it is said "that the boys of Liberia would not labor on a farm . . . not simply from laziness, but from a false idea that farm labor is unbecoming." Naked chiefs in Africa are served by slaves and "the people of Liberia have easily fallen into the habit of taking

or hiring their native slaves to wait on them and do their work." It is hoped that with the example of Hampton and other such colored schools in America before them, a "spirit of self-help and independence may be developed in Liberia."

The report ends with an account of the closing weeks of President Pinney's administration of the College. Hastening back from America, in order to arrive before the adjournment of the Legislature, he landed at Monrovia January 6, 1879. A bill was passed by the Senate authorizing removal of the College. A special meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College was held January 10, at which objections to the bill arose and the entire evening was consumed in debate, giving no opportunity for the transaction of business or preparation for carrying out the re-organization of the College. Unreasonable members of the Board made "wild charges of usurpation and domination by the Boards in America." Nevertheless, the bill was passed by the House of Representatives, but unfortunately was vetoed by President Gardner under a misapprehension. Quickly convinced that he had done wrong, he attempted to recall the bill, but the Legislature had adjourned and it was too late. Under the circumstances, President Pinney "decided that his proper course was to return at once to America and resign his official connection with the College."

A statement from the Trustees of Liberia College addressed to the Trustees of Donations and dated July 12, 1879, set forth the difficulties in the way of removal of the College and the various circumstances operating against its progress.

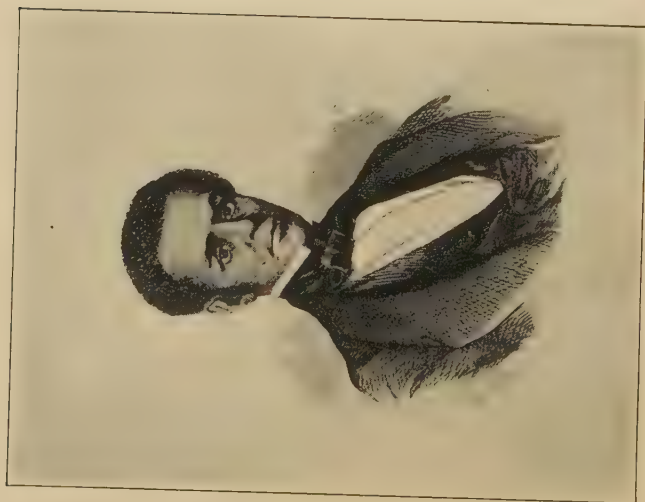
In a letter addressed to Mr. Braman, Secretary of the Trustees of Donations, and dated August 28, 1879, Professor Freeman throws light on general conditions in Liberia and on the causes of the low state of education in that country. "The government is poor even to bankruptcy, the people are, on the average, poverty-stricken, ignorant, and vicious, justice partial and venal, religion a kind of Christian fetishism, morality but little understood and still less practiced. Now to suppose such a government and such a people will appreciate education and make any the least sacrifices to sustain and diffuse it, is to expect 'grapes from thorns and figs from thistles.' We Liberians are simply men and, like other men, can know only what we have learned and do what we have seen done. The Old Slave South, whence we came, had no Common School System, was not in favor of the general diffusion of education, and we must copy the errors of our former masters and teachers. Then, too, the men now holding places of honor, trust and profit among us, do not, as a general thing, favor a high order of education, because such education will produce young men of superior abilities, who will be their rivals and strive for and often obtain the lucrative positions now held by the old, incompetent men. . . . Unless the friends of Africa and of the Negro are prepared to sustain the College and the higher grade of educational interests in Liberia until a class of really educated men is raised up among us, nothing effectual will be done." For the Boston and New York Boards to withhold aid would be disastrous. This the New York Board seems to have done in the case of the Fulton bequest. Liberia College has had to contend with

special difficulties. "First, at the very outset, came the contest in regard to its location, giving rise to divided interests and animosities which the lapse of sixteen years has not reconciled."

On January 13, 1880, Secretary Braman wrote to Mr. William Tracy, of New York: "We received a letter from Professor Freeman yesterday in which he says the President of the Republic is pledged to urge the Legislature in his forthcoming message to make an annual appropriation of from \$2500 to \$3000 for the payment of another teacher and other expenses, and that the appeal recently sent out has brought some favorable responses and promises of assistance."¹

At the April meeting of the Trustees of Donations the President of the Board reported on a number of letters and documents which had been referred to him, and added: "It appears from recent accounts that the present College building—if worth repairing—cannot be repaired by funds likely to be furnished from this country; and the College, if continued, must be removed to some better location. In initiating measures for that purpose, this Board has not the means of taking an active part, but can and, it is believed, ought to express itself in favor of such measures. There seems no good reason for dropping Professor Freeman, and unless or until such reason shall appear, it is recommended that he be retained in our service at a compensation not to exceed \$750 per annum. Yet it is recommended that no engagement be entered into beyond the current year, against or without the assent of the New York State Colonization Society, and that we hold ourselves in readiness to unite with

¹ Letter Book, IV, p. 467.



JOSEPH JENKINS ROBERTS

Presidents of Liberia College



EDWARD WILMOT BLYDEN

that Society in any course which we have no reason to disapprove."

XV.

PRESIDENCY OF DR. BLYDEN

At a meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held June 14, 1880, in ratification of action taken by the Trustees of Liberia College, it was unanimously "Voted, That the Board do recognize the appointment of Edward Wilmot Blyden, LL.D., as President of Liberia College and do confirm the same." It was also voted to assent to the removal of the College to the interior.

Dr. Blyden was present at this meeting of the Board. A month earlier,¹ while his appointment was under discussion, he had written to Mr. William Tracy, of the New York Board, begging that no report of opposition to him in America be allowed to reach Liberia, which would hearten his enemies there. "They do not themselves believe the charges which they cast forth with such reckless and irresponsible hands, but they say if enough mud is thrown, some will stick. And some *has* stuck to me. . . . I am content to go to my grave covered all over with mud, if through any effort of mine Africa shall be saved from the pernicious influence of a mongrel horde. . . . The work of removing the College and starting in a new locality and upon a different basis is Herculean enough without burdening the President with the suspicion in the minds of the people that he will not be cordially supported here." The next year² there appears in Blyden's correspondence another expression of his race feeling: "The mulatto is not

¹ May 13, 1880.

² August 31, 1881.

a Negro in nature, whatever he may be in the politics of America. He can neither understand nor sympathize with the peculiar work of the Negro in this country" (Africa).

In October, 1880, the Trustees of Donations approved the nomination of Professor Freeman, by the Board of Control of the New York Colonization Society, for appointment as Fulton Professor and he was thereupon appointed.

President Blyden was inaugurated January 5, 1881, and on February 15 wrote to Secretary Braman of the Trustees of Donations: "There has never been so large a number before in regular attendance." Either a tuition fee or a promissory note is exacted from every student. "Liberia is increasing in agricultural prosperity and the mass of the people, though hard at work and just rising from the struggle with their elementary necessities, are becoming more and more alive to the value of education. Their ideas of the advantages of a higher education for their children are receiving development along with their progress in material matters; and we may confidently expect large indigenous support for the College."

Six months later (August 31, 1881), again writing to Mr. Braman, the new President says: "As an evidence of the advancing educational sentiment, I may mention that a krooman brought his son to be entered on the list of students in the Preparatory Department, having paid the required fee for the term to the Treasurer of the Trustees. The boy has taken up his abode in the College building and his meals are sent to him by his parents, who reside at the kroo town about half a mile from the College."

At a meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College, held January 13, 1881, a number of resolutions were adopted, and among others it was "*Resolved*, That it is highly desirable that the study of the Arabic language be introduced into the regular College course, and that the important vernacular languages of the aborigines be as far as possible associated with its study." The Trustees of Donations had previously approved the appointment of an instructor in Arabic.

In June, 1881, at a meeting of the Board, the Secretary of the Trustees of Donations was directed to keep the Trustees of Liberia College informed, from time to time, as to action of the Board in relation to the College. In November, it was voted that four members of the Board should constitute a quorum at all meetings.

On January 9, 1882, President Blyden thanked the Trustees of Donations for certain books and instruments and, speaking of impecunious students, said that he had been supporting two himself and would welcome aid from the New York Colonization Society. He favored another site for the College, half a mile up the river from Clay-Ashland and better than that place. On March 18, he wrote: "I want to put the advanced class soon into French and Arabic. I am now drilling them in Greek and Latin. This class consists of five promising young men, all apparently strong and healthy." Principal R. B. Richardson, of the Preparatory Department, reported twenty-eight pupils in October, 1881, and thirty-three in February, 1882.

At this time Liberia College seemed to show healthy signs of revival and there was at least temporary relief

from the preceding period of depression. At the January, 1882, meeting of the Trustees of Donations, a letter from Professor Freeman was read, in which he "expresses his strong belief in the improved prospects of Liberia College."

In April, President Blyden was authorized to make another trip to America and he did so, visiting various parts of the Union. As a result of his observations he complained that many young men were educated in the United States, from funds subscribed with the understanding that they should go to Africa, and later decided to remain in America. He succeeded in engaging twenty-six pupils in southern schools, including twelve at Hampton, "to go to Liberia and complete their studies in the College"; but only three subsequently went.

On October 17, 1882, the Trustees of Donations "Voted, That the Board approve of the removal of Liberia College to such place as may be selected by the President and two-thirds of the Trustees of the College"; the Laws of Liberia College to be amended so that "there shall be established, in connection with the College, an Agricultural and Mechanical Department for manual labor and technical instruction."

President Blyden's trip to the United States resulted in three important additions to the teaching staff of Liberia College. October 27, he wrote that two young colored men, Rev. T. McC. Stewart and Rev. H. M. Browne, wished to go to Liberia and teach in the College, and December 27, he reported that he had selected Miss Jennie E. Davis, a graduate of the Boston Girls' High School, as Principal of the Female Department of Liberia

College. In this connection the Trustees of Donations voted, November 2, 1882, to establish in Liberia College The Charles Hodge Professorship of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy and The Charles Sumner Professorship of Belles Lettres, History, and Law. This action was taken with the understanding that the salaries attached to these positions were "to be provided from sources independent of the funds now in the treasury of this Board." Hugh Mason Browne, M.A., and Thomas McCants Stewart, A.B., LL.D., were appointed to these professorships respectively, and in January, 1883, their acceptances were announced. President Blyden and the new professors were authorized to collect funds for the benefit of Liberia College. A public meeting in aid of the College was held in the Central Church at Boston on Sunday evening, January 21, 1883, at which addresses were made by President Charles W. Eliot, of Harvard, and Professors Browne and Stewart. President Blyden was absent by reason of illness.

President Blyden, Professors Browne and Stewart, and Miss Davis, after spending several months in preparing for their work in the College and in soliciting subscriptions for its benefit, departed for Liberia in the summer. Miss Davis seems to have taken hold of her task with a will, making a good beginning of a long career of usefulness. On the other hand Browne and Stewart wrote, October 1, 1883, that they were getting acclimated and wanted to begin work, but found the outlook most discouraging. "There is nothing for us to do as Professors in the College. . . . It is a waste of both time and money to struggle longer with this College. Indeed there is no

College. Its existence is mainly on paper; its positions, call them Professorships, are sinecures. The building is in a miserable condition." They recommended a school similar to the Hampton Institute.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Donations, December 10, 1883, at which the above letter was read, it was

"Voted, That provided the New York State Colonization Society will take the sole responsibility for the support of Professors Browne and Stewart in Liberia College, and for the removal of the College to such place as may be selected by the President and two-thirds of the Trustees of the College, the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia will pay the money now in the Treasury of this Board, which has been received from the subscriptions under the authorization of this Board to President Blyden and Messrs. Browne and Stewart by vote of November 2, 1882, to said New York State Colonization Society."

Between President Blyden and the new professors there was complete misunderstanding and incompatibility almost from the moment of their arrival in Monrovia. A letter dated October 25, 1883, came from Blyden, dwelling at length on the intractability of Stewart and Browne, who will not obey orders and hold themselves independent of all authority. In his Annual Report for 1883, to the Trustees of Liberia College, President Blyden says that Browne and Stewart, who arrived August 8, have not yet gone to work, while Miss Davis, coming August 21, began teaching on September 10, with eighteen girls. On January 15, 1884, he wrote to Secretary Braman of the indifference of these professors. "They have done every-

thing since they arrived to show contempt for the College and their desire to have the management of things in their own hands. This is the disposition of the mulatto and quadroon everywhere. . . . And if their aspirations and domineering disposition are not checked in Liberia, this nation will never advance." He makes bitter comments in this letter on President Johnson of the Republic (formerly a professor in the College), who had taken the part of Browne and Stewart.

President Johnson, under date of January 19, makes a long defense of the professors and condemns the course taken by President Blyden. On February 28, Professor Browne submitted a very elaborate plan for the reorganization of the College and its removal to a new site—different from all other sites proposed. He would dismiss Blyden and put Johnson in his place, when the latter had finished his term as President of the Republic.

Great must have been the disappointment of the Trustees of Donations, who had anticipated a decided revival of the College. At the annual meeting, January 10, 1884, they came to the conclusion "that it is the duty of this Board to abstain from voting any further appropriations for the College and from any further action looking to the removal of its location until the differences between the President and the recently appointed Professors be reconciled." At first, at least, the Trustees were inclined to take the part of President Blyden. The day after this meeting President Peabody wrote to the Rev. G. W. Samson, Corresponding Secretary of the New York Colonization Society:

"We look upon the position of the younger professors

as, by their own showing, utterly untenable and in every respect blameworthy. If the College is not in a prosperous condition, as it probably is not, their course is adapted to render the condition of things more disastrous and less hopeful. They are setting themselves in hostility to the existing government of the College and, as we learn, have attempted to arrest the action of Miss Davis, who, as they acknowledge, is doing her work faithfully and successfully. They have assumed authority which neither your board, nor ours, nor the Trustees in Liberia have granted them. We have no reason to distrust our President, but it is manifest that he and they cannot be sustained together, and before we do anything that implies a recognition of their claims, we must have adequate reason for withdrawing our confidence from the President. . . . It seems to us questionable whether those young men should be suffered to draw any pay for living in idleness, setting public opinion at defiance and rebelling against constituted authority.”¹

Professor Stewart returned to America and was present at the April meeting of the Trustees of Donations, where he “made statements respecting the need of agricultural and industrial training in Liberia.” Thereupon it was “Voted, to approve of a proposed plan for the removal of the College to a new location and the establishment of an Agricultural and Industrial Department. The Trustees also approved of a proposal that Professor Stewart spend two months at Hampton, Va., in making himself familiar with the working of the Normal and Agricultural Institute at that place.”

¹ Letter Book, V, 164.

During his stay at Hampton Professor Stewart was especially interested in the Indian work and the night-school system. It seemed to him that Liberia College would have to do for the natives of Africa what the Hampton Institute was doing for its Indian students, and that those who worked all day must be taught at night. As a result of his observations he recommended the removal of Liberia College up the St. Paul's River to some place at or near Arthington, a site being chosen which was healthy and accessible both to visitors and to the market, fronting on the river, if possible. Twenty-five acres should be cleared at once for planting and raising stock, temporary buildings erected, tools sent out from America, a brick-kiln started as soon as possible for the manufacture of material for permanent buildings. This plan was presented with great detail. It was expected that the College with the Industrial Department would be in full operation by the late spring of 1885. It would then comprise a coffee plantation, carpenter and cabinet shop, tin-smith and blacksmith shop, and industrial room for the manufacture and repair of clothing. There would be an Elementary Course, a Scientific Course, and a Classical Course. "These will reach the masses of the youth, preparing intelligent laborers, efficient teachers, and fitting the few for the professions."

Early in 1884, President Blyden went to Sierra Leone, leaving the College for several months without a head. At a meeting of the Trustees of Donations, on June 8, it was voted to suspend the President's salary on account of his protracted absence. In a letter of July 10, Blyden says: "My absence from the College was caused by ill

health in January last. After I had measurably recovered my strength, I learned that the Government had put on foot a military expedition¹ and that the College students had nearly all left for military duties. I felt that I would remain away until the expedition returned and the students were again at their post." A tutor was provided during his absence by the Trustees of the College. He returned in April and found that six students, after returning from the expedition, had left the College. "I have paid the tutor out of my salary for his services. . . . I was aware that strong efforts were making to damage me in America, but I did not know that it would lead to this. I hope that additional light will convince the Trustees of Donations of the injustice they have done me. I am willing to bear all the trials that may be brought upon me through my efforts to push our work forward in this country."

This was the end of Blyden's presidency. The Trustees of the College took his part. Three years later they received from the Trustees of Donations, in reply to their request for Blyden's reinstatement, the following presentation of the Boston Board's position: Dr. Blyden "had been appointed with much hesitation and with much doubt of the expediency of the appointment, but at the time no other candidate seemed available; and as we were aware of his good education and his abilities, we ventured on the step with the sincere hope that the result would justify our choice. He himself selected Messrs. Browne and Stewart to be professors and accompanied them to Monrovia. From that time we heard of nothing whatever

¹ This seems to have been directed against an outbreak of some of the native tribes.

being done for the development of the College, but only of political intrigues for the Presidency of the Republic; of the cessation of all friendly relations between Dr. Blyden and his new professors; and finally of his departure for Sierra Leone, leaving the College to take care of itself, and without explanation of any kind. Being unwilling to act hastily, the Board at first decided to suspend the payment of Dr. Blyden's salary as President, leaving it open to him to furnish proof that he had been faithfully carrying on the work of the College, that he had been doing his best to organize the work of the new professors, and that the rupture with them was occasioned by no fault of his. On all these points we have had no satisfactory evidence, and the propriety of our action has been confirmed in the strongest manner by the New York State Colonization Society. Of course, in suspending the payment of Dr. Blyden's salary we virtually suspended him from the Presidency of the College, while we left the way open for his reinstatement, if he should be able to justify us in taking that step. As he has entirely failed to do so, our first action must be considered final. . . . It was with great regret that we found ourselves so completely disappointed in our expectations from Dr. Blyden, and nothing would give us greater pleasure than to see the place which he has vacated worthily filled. The one object of this Board has always been to promote the best welfare of Liberia College."¹

¹ Letter Book, V, 343 (May 26, 1887).

XVI.

PROFESSOR FREEMAN IN CHARGE

Another opinion of conditions and factions in Liberia College about this time, from a different point of view, is found in a letter, dated October 22, 1884, from Professor Freeman to the Rev. G. W. Samson, of the Board of Control of the New York Colonization Society: "The project of the removal of the College seems, from your letter, to be discarded. This is wise. It never ought to have been attempted, and with the consent of the Trustees here cannot be done. You see, no doubt, that the acquiescence of the Board of Trustees to the proposed removal was not an earnest of what they really wished to have done. . . . If a tithe of the interest and pecuniary aid could be expended for education in Africa that is poured out like water for the education of the Freedmen of the United States, then indeed Liberia College would become the beacon light of West Africa."

In contradiction of this letter, C. T. O. King, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Trustees of Liberia College, expressed his conviction on November 21, 1884, also to the Board of Control in New York, that the Executive Committee "stand to a man committed to the removal of the institution to the St. Paul's or interiorwards. And not only committed, but endorsing and favoring the removal."

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held January 8, 1885, the resignation of Dr. Peabody as President and as a member of the Board, on account of ill



ANDREW PRESTON PEABODY



JOSEPH SAMUEL ROPES

Presidents of the Board of Trustees

health, was received and it was "Resolved, That this Board has heard with sincere regret of the necessity which compels Rev. Dr. Peabody's retirement; and expresses to him its grateful acknowledgments for his valuable services rendered to the cause which it represents." The Hon. Joseph S. Ropes was elected President of the Board to fill the vacancy. At a later meeting, on account of the contemplated trip abroad of Mr. Ropes, it was voted to revive the office of Vice-President, which had lapsed many years before, and the Rev. Judson Smith was elected to fill this office.

For several months discussion of candidates for the Presidency of Liberia College went on in the Boston and New York Boards and in Liberia. Dr. Samson writes to Mr. Braman, January 3, 1885, that Professor Freeman "thinks there is a party which will try to urge the reappointment of Dr. Blyden and make him next May a candidate for the Presidency both of the Republic and of the College. It is easy to see that this he regards as disastrous to both Republic and College, should it occur."

President Johnson, of the Republic, wrote to Dr. Samson, January 24: "There is a vigorous effort making here by Mr. Blyden's adherents to have him reinstated as President of the College. I tell you candidly that should they succeed, it will be the deathblow to your educational work. Their object is rule or ruin."

On March 19, 1885, the Trustees of Donations, in accordance with the recommendation of the New York Board, voted to request Professor Freeman to act as President pro tem. This appointment was accepted by Freeman and he continued to hold the position until made

President in the full sense three years later. Arthur Barclay, a graduate of the College, was employed as Instructor.

Meanwhile Miss Davis kept on steadily at her task. She had at first found it necessary to organize a school for young girls, in order to fit them for entering upon more advanced studies. This school she established on the St. Paul's River and there she brought together and trained native girls from the interior tribes. She found her position not always agreeable in certain respects and on January 26, 1885, she wrote to Mr. Braman: "Believing that no woman can do effectual work here who is homeless, as I am, I have decided to marry. With a home and protector I hope to do much more for Africa than I can possibly do, situated as I am." Three days later she became Mrs. Sharp.

For lack of funds it was not possible to carry out the plans proposed by Professors Stewart and Browne for the removal of Liberia College and the establishment of an Agricultural and Industrial Department. Late in 1885 Stewart and Browne resigned their professorships.

The year 1886 was uneventful. In 1887 unsatisfactory reports of conditions at Liberia College caused solicitude. President pro tem. Freeman visited the United States and was present at a meeting of the Trustees of Donations in May, when he expressed his views as to the needs of the College. From Pittsburgh, September 10, 1887, he wrote: "There is a . . . rumor abroad in the air, viz. that it has been suggested that 'a white man be sent out to take charge of the work of the College.' In regard to this rumor permit me to say that I shall be

very glad if any man, whether white, black, red, yellow, or even green, is sent out to relieve me and release me from my present position of President pro tem."

At a meeting held July 19, 1888, the Trustees of Donations appointed Professor Freeman President of Liberia College, in accordance with the unanimous request of the Executive Committee of the Trustees of the College. In a letter of September 20, accepting the Presidency, Freeman says: "From 1864 to 1871 there were four teachers in the Collegiate Department. From 1871, the date of Professor Blyden's resignation, to 1877 there were three; thence up to the appointment of Dr. Blyden as President, only one; since his withdrawal and at present, there are two, Tutor Barclay and myself."

By this time the New York State Colonization Society seems to have become committed to the removal of Liberia College and Mr. H. M. Schieffelin, of that Society, published an open letter, dated December 18, 1888, advocating this policy. Having presented the usual arguments, he adds: "Another and perhaps the most important reason for removing the College from the point to the interior, and especially to near Arthington, is the necessity that Liberia should get rid of the spirit of caste, which now that immigration has become insignificant, will continue to prevent the further growth of Liberia. The Americo-Liberians assume a superiority over the aborigines and keep them at a distance, except those they are able to keep as servants; this they could not do if education were equal. The situation of the College at the point, seaward of Monrovia, excludes the aborigines; near Arthington it would not, but would give an opportunity to the aboriginal

pupils there to become, by advanced education, some of the leading citizens—and this is the only means by which the spirit of caste against them can be extinguished.” In support of arguments in this letter, Mr. Schieffelin quotes the experience and opinion of the Rev. David A. Day, for many years head of the Muhlenberg Mission of the Lutheran Church on the St. Paul’s River, near Arthington.

In January, 1889, the New York Colonization Society voted that after an interval of six months, no more money should be spent for education at Monrovia. This would give time to choose a site and move Liberia College. The site approved was the one near Arthington, chosen by Professor Browne and the Trustees of the College. The New York Board recommended to the Trustees of Donations that negotiations be entered into for the sale of the present building to the Liberian Government.

President Freeman’s administration, with full rank, was short. He had never been robust and, after several months of failing health, he died at the age of sixty-two, March 13, 1889. Arthur Barclay wrote to Secretary Braman, on the same day: “His death is regretted and lamented by all classes of the community. He impressed all by his unassuming manners, his capacity, his blameless life, and his entire devotion to the cause of education. I am sure I do not say too much when I express the opinion, no doubt generally concurred in, that the Trustees of Donations in sending such a man to Liberia conferred a very great benefit upon the country and materially assisted the cause of education. If the College has not been the success hoped for, it has not been through any lack of effort, in his sphere, of our deceased friend.”

At a meeting of the Boston Board a year later, April 10, 1890, it was "Resolved, That the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia desire to place on record their warm appreciation of the character and services of Professor Martin H. Freeman, late President of Liberia College; of his fidelity in the discharge of every duty, his unswerving loyalty to the best interests of his race and his adopted country, and the modest simplicity and moral excellence of his personal character. May he have a worthy successor in the work to which his life was so faithfully devoted."

XVII.

PRESIDENT GIBSON

During the interregnum following the death of President Freeman efforts were made, as on former similar occasions, to find a worthy successor. The Hon. William M. Davis, who had been Treasurer of the Trustees of Liberia College, served as acting President for a time. He was opposed to removal of the College.

The name of the Rev. David A. Day, of the Muhlenberg Mission in Liberia, was much discussed. He expressed his willingness, on January 22, 1890, to accept the Presidency of the College, but it was said that he was ineligible, because not a Liberian citizen. On January 31, therefore, the Rev. Garretson W. Gibson was elected President by the Trustees of the College, and on May 13 he wrote to President Ropes: "If the help that I may require to put the College in proper working condition can be afforded, the matter of my salary will be with me a

secondary consideration." He was in favor of removal and of industrial training. Mrs. Sharp evidently would have preferred Dr. Day and seems not to have had a high opinion of Dr. Gibson. Writing to Secretary Braman, June 5, she says that in an interview with him "he spoke with great assurance of what the Liberian Government would do toward the support of the College. I replied that the Government was not able to pay its debts and could not in consequence of poverty be relied upon to keep any such promise."

In case of removal of the College, Mrs. Jane Rose Roberts, widow of the first President, was very desirous of securing the building for a hospital and had much correspondence with the Trustees of Donations on the subject. Acting President Davis visited the United States in 1890 and had interviews with the American Boards. The decision arrived at after this seems to have been that the College should not be removed.

Meanwhile Dr. Gibson's election by the Trustees of the College had not been ratified by the American Boards, and Mr. Charles T. Geyer, Corresponding Secretary of the New York Colonization Society, writing October 29, 1891, to President Ropes, suggested that acting President Davis be made President at a nominal salary, to serve only as presiding officer at meetings of the Trustees of the College. Mr. Davis died the following year. About this time Mr. Orator F. Cook, of Syracuse (N. Y.) University, who had been appointed Fulton Professor and Principal of the Industrial Department of the College, to be established at Monrovia, sailed for Liberia, arriving December 5, 1891. Professor Cook was a white man.

Secretary Geyer wrote to President Ropes, May 20, 1892: "As to Liberia College matters, we believe the temper of our Board is such that they would not appropriate a dollar for salaries, beneficiaries, or any other purpose at present. . . . We understand the appointment of Rev. Mr. Gibson dates back about two years and you have held it in abeyance, but from the tenor of their letters, we think they expect him to receive a salary for all the time. We believe the President of Liberia College, in its present condition, ought to be patriotic enough to serve without salary, or at only a nominal salary, until affairs are more prosperous; in fact, we think the Liberians are too dependent on donations from this country and it will be better for them to help themselves, and the sooner they understand this the better for them."

Dr. Gibson wrote to President Ropes, August 19, 1892, that he had entered upon his duties as President in February, at the request of the Trustees of the College. "The question of the location of the College is, I think, settled." It is to remain at Monrovia and he now thinks that a wise decision. The Industrial Department has been started. Gibson will accept a salary of five hundred dollars, and will take the Hodge Professorship. At last, October 13, 1892, the Trustees of Donations appointed Dr. Gibson President of Liberia College.

During the next year or two little of importance occurred to enliven the routine business of the Trustees of Donations. In 1892 and 1893 there was much correspondence about a bequest of Daniel Price, of Newark, New Jersey, to "trustees of donations to aid in the endowment of the Liberia College, \$5000." The will was

contested and a compromise was finally effected, by which the amount of the legacy was considerably reduced.

President Gibson, in a letter of April 20, 1894, to Secretary Braman, says: "We think too that the time has come that a moderate tuition fee be required, to aid in raising funds for the needs of the Institution. We propose to fix this fee at twenty-five dollars per annum, which may be paid in money or work on the farm." Many fruits can be raised on the College grounds and readily sold. "Having resigned my post as Secretary of State in view of the great demand upon my time for College work, I propose to see what can be done on this line."

President Gibson wrote again, February 4, 1895, in regard to a project to purchase thirty acres of land adjoining the College, to be planted with coffee. "Money was also appropriated from Government funds in our possession, to erect a building near the College for the Female Department, which we shall probably call 'Benson Hall' after our second President." According to a circular dated February 15 and signed by the President, the College "has matriculated at commencement of this session a larger class than ever before in its history." It is stated in this circular that Liberia College is a national institution and is receiving foreign aid only to the extent of five hundred dollars a year, which comes from the Trustees of Donations.

A little more than a month later, March 20, 1895, Professor Cook wrote to Secretary Geyer of the New York Colonization Society: "With regard to the College, the whole matter has turned out much as you anticipated. Things are so far gone that attempting to teach would be

foolish, to say the least. The Trustees seem inclined to treat the whole matter as a private perquisite, and this is especially the attitude of the President."

In May Professor Cook came to America and on August 25 wrote to Secretary Braman: "I have just received definite information from Liberia to the effect that President Cheeseman [of the Republic] has closed the College, because no one lived there to preserve order. This was most proper, as the pretense of maintaining the work could only result in harm."

In spite of President Gibson's optimism, it was evident that the affairs of Liberia College had again become critical. At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations in September, 1895, Professor Cook was present and he was requested to propose "a method of action by which we may best meet the condition of things in Liberia College." He thereupon set about preparing a statement. At the regular October meeting a report was received from the New York Colonization Society of its meeting, held a week earlier, at which, after listening to Professor Cook's statement, it had been "Resolved, That this Board recommend to the Boston Board that President Gibson be deposed and Professor Cook be elected to the Presidency of the College."

At another special meeting of the Boston Board, held November 20, it was voted to propose certain changes and amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws of Liberia College and recommend their adoption by the Trustees of the College and the Liberia Legislature. The most important of these changes were that each board or corporation holding funds for the benefit of the

College should have the right to send "two delegates to sit with the Trustees of Liberia College," with the same powers as those Trustees; and that such boards, contributing to the support of the College, should jointly nominate candidates for President of the College, to be elected by the College Trustees. Other changes, providing in detail for the appointment or election of College instructors and officers, and other matters of administration, were recommended. It was also voted to "join with the New York State Colonization Society in nominating as President of the Institution Professor O. F. Cook"; and to withhold any further contributions for the support of the College "until its affairs are in a more satisfactory condition." A letter was sent to President Gibson conveying information of this meeting and of the action taken.¹

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations in January, 1896, the Rev. Judson Smith, Vice-President, was elected President of the Board, Mr. Ropes having previously resigned that office on account of failing eyesight. The Rev. Daniel Dulany Addison was made Vice-President. Mr. Ropes continued his membership as a Trustee; this, however, he also soon resigned. Following instructions of the Board, the President and Secretary conveyed to Mr. Ropes the deep regret of the Trustees at the necessity of being deprived "of further association with him in a work in which he has for so long a period been enlisted as a most interested and efficient supporter. His services and wise counsels as President of the Board have contributed greatly to the prosperity of the Board and the success of its work. We shall miss him in our meet-

¹ Letter Book, VI, 200.

ings and beg to assure him of our confidence and affectionate regard."

Professor Cook returned to Liberia, having been entrusted with power to act as agent of the Trustees of Donations, and in the spring came back to the United States. He wrote to Secretary Braman, April 26, 1896, that at a meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College in January, the resignation of President Gibson was received and accepted, "and the undersigned was immediately and unanimously elected to the vacant office." The Faculty of the College was to be constituted as follows: O. F. Cook, President and Fulton Professor of Natural Sciences; Arthur Barclay, Professor of Mathematics; G. N. Collins, Professor of Physics and Chemistry; F. C. Straub, Professor of Modern Languages; G. W. Gibson, Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy. "The work of the Institution is on the poorest possible footing." There are no students of college grade and no schools able to prepare them. The Government is unable to support the Preparatory Department. "The building is hardly habitable." Much time, and aid from the United States, will be required to place the College in a strong position.

Mrs. Sharp, who for many years had been ably conducting a school for native girls, unconnected with Liberia College, removed from the St. Paul's River, in 1896, to the vicinity of Mount Coffee. She had the full confidence of the Trustees of Donations and of many others in the United States. It was proposed that Liberia College should establish a farm settlement at Mount Coffee.

XVIII.

THE COLLEGE CLOSED

President Cook proved even less successful than his predecessors in reviving the nearly moribund Liberia College. The institution seems not to have been in operation at all during his time. Although the amendments to the College charter proposed by the Boston and New York Boards had been passed by the Legislature of Liberia, in 1897 nothing had been done about repairing the building, supplying suitable instructors, and putting the College in working order. For about a year no report was received from President Cook.

At last, however, at a meeting of the Trustees of Donations on November 19, 1897, long expected letters from President Cook were read; he had just returned to America. He was especially interested in the establishment of an Industrial Department at Mount Coffee. A committee was appointed "to learn by correspondence with President Cook whether he is of opinion that it will be practicable for him to return soon to Monrovia and make an earnest attempt to revive the College." Mr. Charles T. Geyer, Secretary of the New York State Colonization Society, who had recently visited Liberia, was present at this meeting. He stated that President Cook was away from Monrovia at the time of his visit. The people with whom he conversed "manifested a desire that College work should be resumed." The College lands appeared to be "capable of greater development than they have received, which might well be the work of an Industrial Department, if that should be started."

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations, January 11, 1898, President Cook was present and made a statement in which he gave "the result of his observation of educational movements in Liberia and outlined a scheme for the enlargement of the work of Liberia College in the direction of industrial education." He replied to many questions put to him by members of the Board and a long discussion followed.

The Rev. Dr. Addison, Vice-President of the Trustees of Donations, attended a meeting of the American Colonization Society at Washington on January 18, and found "that the delegates present from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and Rev. Dr. Frissell, Principal of Hampton Institute, who was also present, were decidedly in favor of making an effort" to establish "industrial education at Mount Coffee in Liberia."

The proceedings at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society, on February 12, 1898, are related in a letter, dated from Washington, two days later, from J. Ormond Wilson, Secretary of that Committee, to Secretary Braman. President Cook was present at the meeting. After a full discussion it was "Resolved, That the Executive Committee heartily endorses the plan of Professor Cook, the Agent of the New York State Colonization Society, for the establishment of an Industrial School and settlement at Mount Coffee, near Monrovia, Liberia, and pledges this Society to do what it can to aid in advancing the project, so far as practicable."

At a meeting of the Trustees of Donations on September 15, 1898, the Methodist Episcopal Bishop of

Africa, Rev. Joseph C. Hartzell, was present and "made a statement with regard to his work in Liberia, together with some suggestions as to possible union of effort in educational work at Monrovia." In a letter of September 29, Bishop Hartzell outlined plans for a Normal Department of Liberia College, in charge of President Alexander P. Camphor, of the College of West Africa, at Monrovia. This institution, founded in 1839 and previously known as the Monrovia Seminary, was under the management of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was described by its President as giving liberal, thorough, and practical courses of study. In 1898 it had an enrollment of 126 pupils, but all below college grade. Bishop Hartzell's proposal of co-operation between the two institutions depended upon the assent of the Trustees of Liberia College. This assent was voted by the local Board at Monrovia on March 28, 1899. The arrangement was to remain in effect for a period of three years.

The plan was further elaborated by Bishop Hartzell in a communication dated November 8, 1898, addressed to President Smith and the Rev. Dr. Strong, a Committee of the Trustees of Donations. The Trustees were to co-operate with the College of West Africa in the establishment of a Normal Department of Liberia College. The latter institution had been so long inactive that there was danger of its losing certain funds in the hands of the Trustees of Donations, especially the Fearing Fund, by diversion to other uses, as provided in the deed of gift. The terms of agreement proposed by Bishop Hartzell were: "1. I turn over to you the building now known as

our boys' boarding hall . . . in which the Department is to be organized." The Trustees of Donations are to pay an annual rental of two hundred dollars. "2. I am to select a teacher prepared to do the work proposed and you are to pay outgoing expenses of himself and his wife, not to exceed \$400. 3. You are to pay \$600 a year for his support." 4. Funds are to be sent to Professor A. P. Camphor, President of the College of West Africa. 5. Professor Camphor is to send "definite reports of the work that is being accomplished." 6. A library is to be established in the building. This arrangement was accepted at a meeting of the Trustees of Donations, November 14, 1898.

Bishop Hartzell returned to Liberia and on March 28, 1899, wrote to President Smith that he had his Faculty of seven persons made up. "The Normal Department will require some time to get thoroughly organized. . . . If in three or four years we can develop a normal class in fact, it will be a great victory." There is talk of reopening Liberia College. On a visit to Mrs. Sharp she was found "in a fairly comfortable house. . . . She had a few native girls and is doing well, considering limited resources." She needs help very much. "She is an interesting woman and devoted to her work, but to carry out her plans will cost much more than you have been paying her." On December 7, 1899, President Camphor wrote very optimistically to the Trustees of Donations in regard to the work so far accomplished in the new Normal Department.

Mr. Charles E. Stevens, who had faithfully served as Treasurer of the Trustees of Donations since 1862,

died in September, 1899, and at the October meeting of the Board the Rev. George M. Adams was elected to the vacant office.

XIX.

REVIVAL OF THE COLLEGE

The Trustees of Liberia College, in a letter to Secretary Braman dated September 11, 1899, said: "The Government having had notice of the resignation of President Cook, will take the College in hand and a President will be recommended or appointed at the annual meeting of the Board in January, 1900."

The decided local awakening of interest in the College, which had been foreshadowed during the previous year, came with the opening of 1900. On January first President Coleman, of the Republic, in his message to the Legislature urged "co-operation with the Trustees of Liberia College, who have determined to put that Institution into active operation this year." At the annual meeting of the Trustees of the College, on January 9, the Rev. G. W. Gibson was elected President for a second term. An editorial in *The Liberia Recorder*, of January 11, says: "At last people of Liberia have taken earnest hold of this Institution, which has passed through so many vicissitudes and has been the source of so many disappointments, although in all its meanderings it has accomplished an amount of good which will be felt throughout the history of the Republic." President Gibson was inaugurated in February. Other appointments on the Faculty were: E. W. Blyden, Professor of Languages; Arthur Barclay, Professor of Jurisprudence and

Mathematics; H. R. W. Johnson, Professor of English Literature and History.

C. T. O. King, Treasurer of the Trustees of the College, wrote to Secretary Braman, February 24, 1900: "The people of Liberia have decided to revive Liberia College as indispensable to the progress of the country. The President of Liberia, in his messages to the Legislature during the last two or three years, has been urging the importance of the Government assuming the responsibility of the support of the Institution. The Legislature at its last session has passed laws making appropriations out of the regular revenue for defraying the expenses of the College. . . . The people of Liberia are not insensible of the great blessings which through the Trustees of Donations have been conferred upon the educational interests of Liberia, and they hope that the Trustees will give whatever aid they can to assist the Trustees of Liberia College in enlarging the scope and widening the influence of the Institution. It is felt that there is a great work to be done for education in Liberia and while the people of Liberia have decided to take an active part in its promotion, they still hope that the Trustees of Donations will make any suggestions to the Board of Trustees here and render any aid which to them may appear practicable."

At a meeting of the Trustees of Donations on April 12, 1900, it was decided that it would be impracticable to enter into an arrangement suggested for uniting the resources of the American Colonization Society and other kindred bodies "for the purpose of accomplishing more for the benefit of Liberia than can be done by separate

effort"; for the reason that the plans being prosecuted for co-operation with the College of West Africa would prevent.

At the same meeting the Secretary was instructed to communicate with President Gibson, inquiring as to the effect of the recent action taken to revive the College on co-operation with the College of West Africa and calling his attention to the fact that the agreement for three years with that College was in force.

After the July meeting of the Trustees of Donations, Secretary Braman, acting under instructions, sent the following letter, dated July 12, 1900, to President Gibson: "It was the sentiment of the meeting that you should be reminded that, in the exigency in regard to the possible lapse of funds, it was concluded, after conference with Bishop Hartzell, that a feasible course might be to establish temporarily, in connection with an institution which was in full operation, a department to be known as the Normal Department of Liberia College, and this appears to have been recognized by your Boards in communications of March 28, 1899, and September 11, 1899. It is the hope of the Trustees of Donations that the effort now being made to revive the work of Liberia College will be so successful as to justify the resumption of appropriations directly to the College so soon as obligations to another institution are fulfilled."

An encouraging letter came from President Camphor, dated July 11: "You have already heard of the reopening of Liberia College. They have made a decided change in the building and grounds and the work is going on

¹ Letter Book, VI, 305.



GARRETSON WARNER GIBSON



ROBERT BAKER RICHARDSON

Presidents of Liberia College

well. I am in deepest sympathy with the work and am doing all I can to help."

President Gibson did not remain long with the College, but resigned early in 1901 upon assuming the office of President of the Republic. This bit of news was conveyed in a letter of May 21 from the Rev. Robert B. Richardson, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Trustees of Liberia College. Professor Blyden was appointed to fill the vacancy by the Executive Committee, but he soon left the country. The senior Professor, Arthur Barclay, was then appointed President pro tem., to act until the Trustees should make a nomination. "The College at present is faithfully doing its work, having employed four teachers in the Collegiate Department," and two each in the male and female Preparatory Departments.

In a later communication, August 24, in reply to questions which had been put to him, Dr. Richardson said that a good man for President was available, but as two of the five members of the Executive Committee were away for a month, nothing would be done about filling the vacancy until their return. There were one hundred and twenty-eight students altogether, including ten in the College proper. The Government was interested and doing more than ever before for the College.

Meanwhile President Camphor of the College of West Africa, who was in the United States, had written June 19, 1901, somewhat less encouragingly than the year before. He says: "Touching the matter of funds for Liberia College in possession of your Board in Boston, I quite understand their legitimate use. I know that

our institution was granted the use of the money for normal education only temporarily and under special enactment by the Board in Liberia with the endorsement of the Boston Board. I know that this is the last year for us to receive the grant. I cannot easily speak of the working of Liberia College. If the school were a decided success and the work a credit to the Republic, I should be glad to say so, but to speak truthfully it is not. There seem to be many reasons for this. The great difficulty is to get trained teachers. . . . Such men are not to be found in the country. Then again the element of politics enters. . . . I suppose you know that Dr. Blyden has left the school and that President Gibson resigned some months after his entering upon the office of President, for the presidency of the Republic. But for the three men, Professors Massey, Frith, and Williams, former teachers in my college, I fear that the school would again be closed. The few words that I have said about the school I say in confidence to you. Personally I heartily wish the institution well. I want to see it succeed for the deep interest I have in my race and the welfare of the Republic. I would not lay a straw in the way of its prosperity."

President Camphor was present at a meeting of the Trustees of Donations in October and "spoke at length of the influences at work affecting the progress of education in Liberia, of his own work as an educator during a residence of five years at Monrovia, and of the present condition of Liberia College, so far as his observation extended."

The last important letter of 1901, addressed to Treas-

urer Adams and dated November 6, came from Mrs. Sharp: "For several years I have spent my salary on my school, supporting girls. Now the school has grown, as my salary diminished (I am very thankful for my salary, small though it be), so that now it is not possible for me to carry it on more than a few months longer. The girls are, most of them, promising, one being the little daughter of King Marvee, who was killed . . . in the war two years ago. My influence with the native people has increased so that my opportunities for good are greater than ever before. I live in the most economical style, yet will not be able to hold out. . . . I hope to be able to visit America in the interest of the work and also for my health. It seems to me that my own people in the United States may be roused to a sense of their wonderful opportunities for doing good in this the home of our Ancestors. I do hate to beg, so if I find myself able to come over, I shall depend largely upon talking in public. It does seem to me that I cannot let this work die out. I count nothing that I can do for it."

XX.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON BEGINS WELL

In January, 1902, the Trustees of Liberia College nominated the Rev. Robert B. Richardson for President, and the Liberia Legislature appropriated forty-three hundred dollars for the establishment of a Medical Department of the College. At their April meeting the Trustees of Donations declined to ratify the nomination of Dr. Richardson without fuller knowledge of him. In

reply to inquiry it was learned from Professor Barclay that the nominee was a native Liberian about fifty years of age, a Baptist, a graduate of Liberia College, and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The nomination was ratified at the July meeting of the Trustees of Donations.

In acknowledgment of this action President Richardson wrote, August 20, to Treasurer Adams: "The readiness on the part of the Boston Board to confirm the nomination of President of Liberia College by the Trustees of Liberia College deeply impresses the Trustees with the conviction that your Board still cherishes confidence in the Liberian authorities of the College, and that you have no disposition to slacken or withdraw your sympathy and help from that Institution. . . . The people of Liberia are now very much aroused with earnestness to a sense of their duty respecting the fostering of Liberia College. . . . The Government have liberally endowed the Institution out of its revenue. . . . We would be grateful if your Board would join with us to endeavor to induce the New York Board to allow us to draw on the Fulton and Bloomfield funds."

The revival of Liberia College seemed to be genuine, and for the years 1902 and 1903 President Richardson made encouraging reports. In 1902 there were one hundred and fourteen students, including thirty-two of College grade. "For the first time in the history of the Institution special attention is given to the higher education of girls. There are now eight young ladies, both of Monrovia and of the rural districts, members of the Freshman class." In 1903 there were thirty-six students



FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF LIBERIA COLLEGE
About 1905

of College grade and the degree of A.B. was given to six candidates, the first graduates of the College since 1873. One of the discouraging features of the institution's career had been the fixed practice of students to drop out before finishing their course. Early in 1904 there were forty-two students in the College proper.

President Richardson was present at the July, 1903, meeting of the Trustees of Donations and made a statement of the condition of affairs in the College. Mr. Charles Hall Adams, Liberian Consul General at Boston, was also present, by invitation, at this meeting.

In 1905 the teachers of professorial rank in Liberia College were: Rev. Robert B. Richardson, D.D., LL.D., President and Professor of English Language; Rev. Arthur F. March, A.M., D.D., Professor of Latin, Greek, and French; Rev. Oscar H. Massey, A.M., Professor of Natural Science; Rev. G. W. Gibson, D.D., D.C.L., Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy; Hon. Edwin J. Barclay, A.M., Professor of Mathematics. The total number of students was one hundred and sixty, including twenty-two in the Collegiate Department. Eleven degrees of A.B. were given. Financially the College was in poor circumstances. It was evident that the Government of Liberia was unable to carry out its promises. It had not yet become possible to bring about the long deferred establishment of the Industrial Department. In his report for 1906 President Richardson says that "the financial status of the Institution was firmer and more satisfactory during the past year than the previous one." The figures show a falling off in the number of students. In 1907 there were ninety-two, including fifteen

of College grade. Nathaniel B. Seton, Esq., Professor of English Language and Literature, and the Hon. Frederick E. R. Johnson, LL.D., Professor of Jurisprudence, had been added to the Faculty. Professor Seton was a member of one of the native tribes.

During a visit to the United States in 1902 and 1903, Mrs. Sharp aroused a good deal of interest in her school for native girls at Mount Coffee. This school was conducted on a coffee plantation left by her husband, who had died several years before. Mrs. Sharp was much hampered in her work by lack of money. The Trustees of Donations had sent her small sums—a few hundred dollars yearly—since her first going to Africa, twenty years before, but they had been unable to give her adequate support. About 1905 people who had become interested in her, formed the American Mount Coffee Association, for the purpose of raising funds. The Rev. Edward Everett Hale was President and the Rev. George M. Adams was Treasurer; after his death in 1906 Dr. Adams was succeeded by Mr. Charles Hall Adams, the Liberian Consul General at Boston. After a few years, interest in this project began to wane and it became increasingly difficult to raise money.

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations in February, 1906, the death of the Rev. George M. Adams, Treasurer of the Board, was announced. Mr. Francis E. Blake was elected to fill the vacancy. At the next meeting a minute of respect to the memory of Dr. Adams, prepared by Dr. Addison, was read and adopted. The Rev. Judson Smith, President of the Board, died on June 29. The Rev. Dr. Strong,



JUDSON SMITH



DANIEL DULANY ADDISON
Presidents of the Board of Trustees

in a minute prepared by him in memory of President Smith and adopted at the July meeting, says: "His special interest in Africa led him to a constant and sympathetic devotion of time and energies to whatever enterprises might contribute to the elevation and christianizing of the people of that country." At the annual meeting in January, 1907, the Rev. Daniel Dulany Addison was elected President of the Board, the Rev. Elnathan E. Strong, Vice-President, and Messrs. Blake and Braman were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary.

XXI.

CHARGES AGAINST THE PRESIDENT

The affairs of Liberia College apparently ran along smoothly for a few years and the outlook seemed brighter than for a long time. President Richardson, in a letter of March 25, 1908, to Treasurer Blake, expressed himself as strongly in favor of removal "to a more desirable site on the St. Paul River, where the College owns many acres of fertile land," and where other advantages would be obtained.

About this time vague rumors reached the ears of the Trustees of Donations, and at a meeting of the Board in May, 1908, it was "Voted, That the Treasurer be asked to investigate certain statements which are made unfavorable to the character of President Richardson." Letters were written to persons in Liberia without eliciting definite information and the matter was "referred to the Trustees of the College for such action as was deemed wise."

A letter dated September 29, 1908, from Walter F. Walker, of the College of West Africa, to Charles Hall Adams, Liberian Consul, gives a hopeful view. He says: "Now as to Liberia College and its work. I have quietly studied the situation and learn that the President, Dr. Richardson, is the best man the Republic can obtain. If a better is to be had, he must be imported. He has done more in the way of improving the property and of systematizing the school than any of his predecessors, so far as I am able to learn. The Faculty is fairly good, comparing with our smaller institutions in America, and perhaps the best the Republic can obtain. The College suffers from a lack of college students. The young people don't seem to be very anxious for education and therefore don't remain in school for a long time. By the time they are ready for college they drop out. . . . A new era is apparently dawning which will call for trained men, and then the young men must equip themselves or be relegated to the background."

Regarding the charges against President Richardson, the *African World*, of February, 1909, says that he "has been completely exonerated" by the Trustees of the College. The President himself, writing to Secretary Braman, May 15, says that he would like to know the names of his traducers and thinks that President Arthur Barclay, of the Republic, who had criticised him in his last annual message to the Legislature, is against him because he had opposed Barclay's policies; also former Professor T. McCants Stewart, who had returned to Liberia, "is engaged in the diabolical plot." A letter of Secretary D. E. Howard, of the Trustees of Liberia College, to Secretary

Braman, July 14, gives a strong defense of President Richardson.

Meanwhile, in the absence of satisfactory information, from Liberia, the Trustees of Donations had decided to withhold support and, acting under instructions, Mr. Braman had written to the Trustees of the College, April 10, 1909: "We are convinced that we are not justified in remitting any more funds towards the salary of President Richardson or making any appropriations for the College, until the 'air is cleared' and we have reliable evidence that conditions are changed for the better."

Mr. Blake had an interview with Mr. Edgar Allen Forbes, who had recently returned from a four months' stay in Liberia, and made a report at a meeting of the Trustees of Donations, December 21, 1909. In the opinion of Mr. Forbes, "the crying need of Liberia or Monrovia today is a Public School System. . . . There is really a need of a college properly managed in the city of Monrovia or its immediate vicinity." President Richardson is "utterly incompetent." He is said to have "illegally used the funds of the College. . . . Mr. Forbes says, keep all the money you have for Liberia, don't let it go from your control, for the time is coming when it will be needed, and the desires of the donors will be realized." After hearing this report the Trustees voted to withhold support, and Mr. Blake wrote to the Trustees of the College, December 31: "We are compelled to say that we deem it unwise for us to devote any more of our trust funds towards salaries or for other purposes, until we see a very decided change of conditions."

At this meeting of December 21, the resignation of Mr. Braman as Secretary and as Trustee, on account of removal from the State, was received and accepted. He had served continuously since the death of the first Secretary, Dr. Tracy, in 1874. A minute testifying to his long and faithful service and expressing the appreciation of his associates was entered in the Records and signed by the other Trustees. At the annual meeting in January, 1910, Mr. Francis E. Blake was elected Secretary and Treasurer and thenceforth administered both offices.

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College, early in 1910, President Richardson submitted his report for 1909, recommending removal of the College, opening of the Polytechnic Department, and establishment of a Girls' Training School in the present building, or sale of the building. The Legislature should be asked to amend the Charter so as to increase the number of Trustees; also the number of the Executive Committee from five to seven.

A special committee of the Trustees of the College, in reply to Treasurer Blake's letter of December 31, 1909, wrote to him March 20, 1910, expressing surprise at the attitude of the Trustees of Donations and adding: "This Board will say emphatically that neither from the investigation made of the charges, nor from the personal knowledge of the members or any of them, can any of the charges which have been made against President Richardson or the Institution over which he presides be true and we categorically deny their truthfulness."

Secretary Blake received a long letter dated Monrovia, May 15, 1910, which aroused marked interest

among the Trustees of Donations. It was signed Frank Abial Flower, who had been in Liberia about a year and described himself as an attaché to the United States Commission which had visited that country. Among many observations and suggestions offered by him are these: "The Boston donation to the College has been cut off, I hear, because of the reputation of the President. That, like Barclay's attack on Dr. Richardson, did not work as expected. Barclay's assault strengthened Richardson. . . . When the Boston donation was cut off, Richardson was again made stronger. It was an attack from without. . . . There is a widespread and powerful campaign in progress to discredit everything American. Cutting off the Boston donation from the College is new fuel to the flames. The young people who desire to patronize the College have no knowledge of the reason for cutting off this income; they only know that it has been withdrawn and that it hurts the school. . . . Cutting off the donation because of the reputation of the President . . . is not a blow at the President. . . . It is a blow at the youth of Liberia, who desire to use and who need the College, and therefore a blow at Liberia herself. Education, more and better education, and not a lack of it, not any move that pauperizes the chief educational institution of the country, will make for better morals. . . . Therefore, I would restore the donation and do so voluntarily. Not only so, but I would increase it and do everything possible to widen the influence and educational potentialities of the College. Education is being more and more appreciated among all classes, especially the aborigines."

The Trustees of Donations, at their annual meeting

in January, 1911, took under consideration the reply of the Trustees of Liberia College to Secretary Blake's letter of December 31, 1909. "After a long discussion, in view of the positive statements by the Trustees [of the College] that the President had the confidence of the Trustees, it was voted to appropriate five hundred dollars for the year 1911 towards the salary of President Richardson."

At the October, 1911, meeting of the Trustees of Donations, several communications from President Richardson were discussed in which he referred to the need of books and other equipment and the lack of money, the Republic being unable to furnish any. "While recognizing the difficulty the President was laboring under and the unsettled financial condition of the Republic and his earnest desires for the good of the College, the Trustees gave expression to their lack of confidence in his executive ability and judgment, but felt that the College should be kept supplied in a measure with books, etc., looking forward to a change for the better."

The Rev. Dr. Strong, Vice-President of the Trustees of Donations, tendered his resignation as a member of the Board at the January meeting, 1912, on account of his failing health. "The long service of Dr. Strong (since 1883) was fully recognized and appreciated by the Board and great regret was expressed at his retirement, as well as sincere wishes for his welfare in years to come." Mr. Charles K. Bolton was elected Vice-President to fill the vacancy caused by Dr. Strong's resignation. The other officers were re-elected.

XXII.

PRESIDENT DOSSEN

President Richardson died August 7, 1912. The Hon. Robert J. Clarke, Secretary of the Trustees of Liberia College, acted as President for two months, followed by the Rev. John A. Simpson, Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, who served as acting President until the office was filled. On January 14, 1913, at the annual meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College, the Hon. James J. Dossen was elected President of the College. At this meeting Secretary Blake, of the Trustees of Donations, was given the degree of LL.D., "in honor of the 'Golden Jubilee' of Liberia College, which marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of its existence."

At the April, 1913, meeting of the Trustees of Donations a letter from President Dossen, dated January 21, was read, in which he says that he had been many years a Trustee of Liberia College and for three years Vice-President of the institution. He recommends removal of the College. The institution, he thinks, should have an endowment yielding forty thousand dollars a year. After reading his letter the Boston Board voted to send him the congratulations of the Trustees, to assure him that its appropriations for the College will be continued, and to pay the expenses of a trip to America, if he should feel that good would result from such a visit.

Secretary Blake wrote to him May 3: "You may rest assured that the Board of Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia will be glad and ready to co-operate with your Board as far as possible in accomplishing the

desired ends. But I feel that you should be informed that our Board does not embrace the men of wealth that it once did. The fact is, when the Board was organized, there was great enthusiasm about the uplift of Liberia, and a large amount of money was raised for educational purposes; in later years the interest in American schools for your race has come to the front, and the appeals have been many and successful. For these reasons I very much doubt as to the success of any appeal for Liberia at this time."

President Dossen, in a letter to Secretary Blake dated October 30, 1913, complains that the New York Colonization Society favored the selection of a president for Liberia College who had had industrial training. Dossen does not agree. He says that it would be necessary to get such a man from America and he thinks that for national and racial reasons the President should be a Liberian. "In selecting a man to preside over the National College, prominence must be given to those qualities which contribute to the development of Racial and National ideas and sentiment; for, under his leadership and from the inspiration which will be imparted by him, will the characters of the boys who are to be leaders in the future Church and State of Liberia be formed."

In another letter, also to Mr. Blake, dated the following day, the President expresses the opinion that the duties of Chief Justice of the Republic, to which office he has been appointed, will not conflict with those of President of the College. He goes on to say: "My eight months of administration, I think, have produced a marked change in the institution. I have, in the face of

reduced appropriations, doubled the number of resident students and thereby developed the College along that line. . . . Not only this, but appreciable improvements have been made in the morals and discipline of the students which is strikingly noticeable."

In his "Report for the Year 1913," Secretary Blake says: "Mr. Dossen is evidently a man of great energy and full of practical ideas. . . . His correspondence shows his mind runs on a broader scale than the administration has shown for some years. . . . No salary has been paid Mr. Dossen, at his request, thus leaving more money in the treasury for books, etc."

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations, February 13, 1914, the resignation of Mr. Blake as Secretary and Treasurer was received, but he was requested to serve until a successor had been chosen, and was re-elected. A special meeting of the Board was held March 26, at which Mr. Blake's resignation was accepted. Vice-President Bolton was elected Secretary and thenceforth held both offices. James M. Hunnewell, Esq., was elected a Trustee and Treasurer of the Board. President Addison prepared the following note, to be spread upon the records: "It is with great regret that we record the resignation of Mr. Francis E. Blake as Secretary-Treasurer of our Board. We appreciate his faithfulness to his duties and his deep interest in Liberia. His skill in rearranging our funds in their proper classification has been of great benefit to our Society. It has always been a pleasure to be associated with him in the work for the improvement of education in Liberia. Our long and friendly relations will be remembered by us; and we hope

that many years will yet be granted to him." At this meeting it was reported that the Hon. Arthur Barclay had been chosen President of Liberia College.

XXIII.

PRESIDENT BARCLAY

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College on January 13, 1914, the new President had been elected, President Dossen having resigned on account of the necessity of giving his whole time to his duties as Chief Justice of the Republic. The total number of students in 1914 was ninety-three, including sixteen in the collegiate classes. The Faculty consisted of President Barclay, Professor of History; Rev. O. H. Massey, Professor of Natural Sciences; Hon. Charles D. B. King, Professor of Law; Dr. Luke B. Anthony, Professor of Mathematics; Hon. J. G. Richards, Professor of Latin, Greek, and French; Rev. Arthur F. March, Professor of English; Rev. N. H. B. Cassell, Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy. The Legislature of Liberia appropriated seventy-five hundred dollars in aid of the College. "A fine selection of books," according to President Barclay, had been sent out by the Trustees of Donations at the end of the previous year.

In his report for the year 1914, Secretary Bolton of the Trustees of Donations says: "The College at Monrovia, Liberia, has always claimed our paramount interest and sometimes our entire approval. At other times, either on account of climate, the temperament of the people, the diversity of occupation of the President, or

even the very character of the man himself, we have been impatient for better results in the higher education in Liberia. It may fairly be said that most men prominent in public life there, have studied at the College which we help to maintain, but we in a cold climate, urged on by our Anglo-Saxon traditions, find it difficult to believe that the College is doing all it might for the country. . . . We send \$500 a year toward the President's salary, and add to the library books, newspapers, and magazines. . . . The school for girls at Mount Coffee, some miles out of Monrovia in a dense forest, is our only other instrument at present, by means of which we try to help education in Liberia." Mrs. Sharp was getting old and infirm and needed an assistant, the Mount Coffee Association was languishing, and in June, 1914, the Boston Board had appropriated two hundred dollars in addition to the regular sum of four hundred which it had for several years been in the habit of contributing to the support of this school. This extra gift was in response to an appeal from the Hon. Charles Hall Adams, President of the Association.

Major Charles Young, a gallant colored officer of the United States Army and a graduate of West Point, was in 1914 Military Attaché to the American Legation at Monrovia. After a visit to Mrs. Sharp, Major Young wrote on October 6 to Secretary Bolton:

"A half-blazed trail led to the school where this wonderful woman is undauntedly carrying out her scheme of rearing and protecting native girls. I found her surrounded by thirty or more girls of all sorts and sizes, from the babies of two and three years to the larger girls

of fourteen and fifteen. Mrs. Sharp had raised one of these little ones off the bottle from the time it was ten days old. The school building is a well built bungalow made of native hardwoods and serves its purposes well. Within, everything was orderly and without, the grounds were cleared and planted with flowers, shrubs, trees, and gardens. Mrs. Sharp was all alone in this little clearing, without civilized assistant of any sort. The self-sacrifice of this woman and her devotion to an ideal—that of developing into free, self-respecting women, as mothers of the people, ones who are considered as chattels to be bought and sold—overpowered me. It gave me a new idea of the meaning of Christianity, and while not professing it myself, I felt that if a lone woman with faith in an ideal could do so much, it was my duty to do what I could to further her plans. When I asked her what I might do to help a little, she replied that I could sympathize with the effort. Then she told me of the trials of the task and among other things of certain derogatory reports that had been written by some envious missionary women whom I know. Thereupon I made inquiries as to her work among both natives and civilized people and found that she has the confidence, esteem and respect of all."

President Barclay, in his report for 1915 to the Trustees of the College, says: "The effects of the War upon Liberia College and the educational interests of the country continue to be depressing. . . . We have been marking, and must continue to mark, time until the world convulsion, with its immediate effects, has come to an end." The Government was able to pay only a small proportion of

the money appropriated by the Legislature for the benefit of the College. Four students received degrees and after their graduation eight remained in the Collegiate Department in a total enrollment of seventy-three. Mr. Louis A. Grimes was appointed Professor of English, in place of Professor March, deceased.

In this report the President comments on a published letter by John E. Bruce, an American representative of the press, presumably on Liberia and the race question. "There are in this letter many things for thought. The rationale for the establishment of Liberia was really to assist the culture of the Negro race, not, as Mr. Bruce points out, to make white men in black skins; that the leaders of the race might discover and point out the aptitudes, powers, and limitations of the Negro, and so assist him to take his proper place in the world in which the race is moving. There are places of usefulness reserved for the Liberian and the African scholar which no one but himself can usefully fill."

In a short report for the year 1915, Secretary Bolton speaks of the difficulty of communication with Liberia due to war conditions, and adds: "The work carried on by Mrs. Sharp evidently needs much encouragement both in money and in supplies. . . . It seemed best [at the last meeting of the Board] to refer all these needs to the Mount Coffee Association, since the members of the Board present felt that the work of the Trustees is concerned primarily with higher education."

On April 13, 1916, the sociable custom was inaugurated by the Trustees of Donations of holding their meetings at the Boston City Club, where the affairs of the

Board can be discussed and business transacted during and after luncheon.

At the October meeting Mr. Walter F. Walker, Secretary of Public Instruction in Liberia, was present. He expressed the opinion that President Barclay owed his position to political influence, and as to Liberia College, "it is practically dead and wholly under political control." The instruction given is of low grade. "Twelve years ago Dr. Richardson in his prime did well." Mr. Walker advised "stopping appropriations until there are signs of improvement." The Board decided that President Barclay should be asked "for a statement of recent progress made in the College and for information in regard to present conditions, with an intimation that the Board is not satisfied with the work done by the College and will feel forced to stop appropriations unless the institution is reorganized on more efficient lines."

In his report for 1916, Secretary Bolton says: "The time will surely come when our funds can be used intelligently and to great effect for the improvement of higher education on the western coast of Africa."

"During the year 1916," says President Barclay in his next annual report, "the work of Liberia College was regularly prosecuted, although under considerable difficulties growing out of conditions of the European War." The College was worse off financially than ever before. The professors received less than a hundred and twenty-five dollars each in cash during the year, the balance of their salaries in "statements of accounts, which are not negotiable and which the Government will be unable to pay for some years." The number of students was falling off,

there being eleven in the Collegiate Department, and food sufficient for their proper sustenance could not be procured. "The grade of work done at the College will depend, in the writer's opinion, greatly upon the intellectual aptitude, earnestness, and zeal of the student body; and these qualities react in the most favorable way on the work and efforts of the teachers. One of the drawbacks of Liberia College and all the higher schools of Liberia is that they are working in an atmosphere which is neither by parentage or otherwise, distinctly interested in acquiring knowledge for its own sake. Such an atmosphere must be created by the gradual evolution of the College itself."

President Barclay naturally resented the stand taken by the Trustees of Donations at their October meeting, and in a letter to them dated February 8, 1917, defined his position as being free from political influence and declared his intention of resigning at an early day on account of failing health.

At the October, 1917, meeting of the Trustees of Donations, a communication signed by N. H. B. Cassell and Edwin Barclay, they being a committee of the Trustees of Liberia College, was presented. It was a defense of the College against the opinions of the Boston Board expressed just a year earlier. The writers denied the influence of politics in appointments and in administration, declared that President Barclay was assiduous in the discharge of his duties, and that most of the leading men in the Republic had been educated in Liberia College.

A report of Mr. Edwin Barclay to the Trustees of the College on recent examination papers was read at this

meeting. It says: "The answers to such queries do not tend to show that the student has developed power of observation nor any independent thought on the particular subject. If these questions are indications of what takes place in the classroom, we should suggest that the Board prescribe a change of method. It is obvious that men trained along these lines, unless possessed naturally of inquiring minds, will never be anything more than parrots. They become the slaves of books, then, which produce nothing more than intellectual sloth, and will never be fitted to do the constructive work required to be done in our several communities."

At the same meeting another letter was received from Dr. Cassell, dated August 15, 1917, stating that President Barclay had resigned July 15, and that the Hon. Charles D. B. King, Vice-President, would fill the office until the annual meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College in January, 1918. The Trustees of Donations voted to send to Mr. King the third and fourth quarterly installments of the President's salary, amounting to two hundred and fifty dollars in all.

An interesting letter came from Mrs. Sharp, dated November 10, 1917, giving an account of economic conditions and high prices in Liberia, brought about by the war. This seems to have been the last communication to the Trustees of Donations from Mrs. Sharp, whose health continued to fail until her death in 1918. Colonel Young, who took such a deep interest in Mrs. Sharp's work, died in Liberia in 1921, having returned to that country after an absence of some years on other service.



ARTHUR BARCLAY



NATHANIEL HENRY BENEDICT CASSELL
Presidents of Liberia College

XXIV.

PRESIDENT CASSELL

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Liberia College, held January 15, 1918, the Rev. Nathaniel H. B. Cassell was elected President of the College. In a statement prepared by Dr. Cassell, dated March 22, the principal needs of the College are outlined as follows: 1. Removal to a more suitable and healthy locality in the vicinity of Monrovia. 2. Sufficient repair of the present building to last until removal has been effected. 3. An endowment fund of one hundred thousand dollars. 4. The raising of a sufficient sum of money to carry the College along through the war period and for several years longer. With this assistance Dr. Cassell thought that he might hope to turn out graduates in considerable numbers from the Collegiate Department and the Normal Department, having an average yearly attendance in all departments of about two hundred. The education of the whole people implied in this effort would have a most beneficial influence on the intellectual, political, social, and moral life of the country.

During the winter of 1917-1918, Bishop Arthur S. Lloyd, President of the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church, made a visit to Liberia and at the request of President Addison of the Trustees of Donations, acquainted himself with conditions at Liberia College. On his return to America he submitted a report and later was present at a special meeting of the Boston Board, on June 26, 1918. He said that the new President,

Dr. Cassell, was in all respects the best man for the office that could have been found.

In his report, Bishop Lloyd speaks of the removal of the College to a more favorable site as a necessity, and after mentioning various drawbacks, he adds:

"In spite of all, the results that have attended the work of the College are nothing less than extraordinary. Most of the men who are today the responsible leaders of the Republic owe all they have received to this institution. It was my privilege to come into close contact with many of these men and it gives me pleasure to say that they were men of intelligence and probity and courage. The manner in which they have met and successfully resisted the sinister influences striving to destroy the Republic, is sufficient proof of their ability and resource. The courage and enthusiasm with which they are confronting the serious problems caused by the present conditions of the world, should win the generous support of all lovers of liberty.

"Liberia presents an intensely interesting spectacle. This Republic is not an exhibit of partially developed people trying to imitate somebody else or playing at government. The Republic is a living entity. Black men have actually established free institutions on the west coast of Africa. They have maintained these practically without assistance against malign influences which might well have brought their efforts to naught. Today they are confronting difficulties and perplexities which one might say would prove too great, were it not for the record of the years, which tells how they have successfully met greater obstacles.

"If Liberia is to hold its own and bring to the conti-

ment of Africa the light in which other races have developed, the Republic must have educated and well-trained men for leaders. The College of Liberia is its only hope. As men speak, if this institution were resuscitated and made efficient, the Republic's greatest need would be met. . . . I met the Executive Committee, who are all competent men who have rendered distinguished service to the Republic. I talked with these and others of the Trustees. I received the impression that they may be relied upon so far as their integrity and high purpose are concerned. They need the counsel and guiding of expert educators. With such advice these men are entirely competent for the work intrusted to them."

Bishop Lloyd believed that for the present at least, academic training was of supreme importance. "Industrial education is desperately needed in Liberia, but first and before all she must have men so trained as to provide her with intelligent and responsible public servants and teachers in her schools."

Bishop Lloyd brought with him letters which he had received, while in Liberia, from men best qualified to give him information, including President D. E. Howard, of the Republic, and Mr. H. F. Worley, who had been sent to Liberia by the United States Government and was acting as General Receiver of Customs at Monrovia. These letters confirmed, or perhaps formed the basis for, the opinions expressed in Dr. Lloyd's report.

In the course of his remarks at the meeting of the Trustees of Donations on June 26, Bishop Lloyd made a number of interesting observations about the Liberians. "There are only a half dozen whites in the total popula-

tion of Liberia. You very rarely see a mulatto. Among themselves, the Liberians look with less favor upon a mulatto. . . . Last winter they raised \$1,500 in Monrovia for the Red Cross. I did not think there was \$1,500 in the town. . . . There are two things I abhor. One is flies and the other is bad smells. There I found neither. They are the cleanest people I ever saw. All their villages are by streams and you never saw people bathe as much as they do, and merely for the sake of keeping clean, as there is no religious rite in connection with their bathing. . . . One of the things that I had heard and accepted as a matter of course was that the original colonists had degenerated and become worthless. As a matter of fact, the children of these first settlers direct and control the affairs of Liberia. It is these people who begged me to plead for this College. The principal thing that has to do with the destiny of Liberia is the College. . . . The Chief Justice of Liberia, Dossen, is a remarkable man," descended from an African Negro. "As Associate Justice and as Chief Justice, he has represented the Government in England, Germany, and France. Nothing that has ever been intrusted to him has gone wrong. Many of his legal decisions are read in England with respect. And he secured all his learning in Liberia. . . . Scholastic training is needed at the moment; technical training will have to be given, but can wait for the time being."

At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations held November 30, 1918, at which President Cassell of Liberia College and Bishop Lloyd were present by invitation, "Dr. Cassell read a statement relating to the condition of the College and his mission to this country. He

made it clear that if Liberia is to retain her independence, she must fit her abler men to carry on the Government. Bishop Lloyd supported Dr. Cassell in his conviction that however much industrial education is needed in Liberia, there is even greater need for at least one college that shall fit men for affairs of state. The President of the Trustees appointed a committee to confer with President Cassell."

At another special meeting of the Boston Board, December 7, 1918, the following statement, prepared by President Addison, was adopted:

"The Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia have been glad to welcome and confer with Dr. N. H. B. Cassell, President of Liberia College. We believe Liberia College to be the most important educational institution in the Republic. The part it has played in the history of the nation proves that its support and extension are essential factors in the training of citizens to be useful to the state. The College needs larger support for a wider service. We are confident that a necessary element in this support is the joining together of the incomes of the trust funds held in the United States for use in Liberia and their application to the annual assistance of the College.

"The Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia are ready to join with the New York Society and the Washington Colonization Society in putting their available incomes, so far as the terms of the trusts will permit, at the disposal of Liberia College. We are ready to appropriate for the ensuing year the entire income, which will be approximately two thousand dollars. . . . The

Board of Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia express their confidence in Dr. Cassell and endorse his plans, commending him to those who are interested in this noble work of supporting and extending Liberia College, which has had an honorable past history and is increasingly needed today in the upbuilding of the Republic of Liberia."

On December 19, 1918, there was held in New York a meeting of representatives of various organizations interested in Liberia, at which resolutions were passed expressing appreciation of "the increased interest of the United States Government in, and the efforts now on foot looking toward, the rehabilitation of the Liberian Government," which will require, on our part, "a free and untrammelled hand in the financial affairs of Liberia"; and urging the importance of "a proper system of roads and improved transportation facilities" and "a unified plan of education." The Trustees of Donations at their next meeting voted to concur in the resolutions adopted at the New York meeting.

During the year 1919 the Trustees of Donations held a number of important special meetings at which guests were present and took part in the discussion of Liberian affairs. On March 15, President Cassell of Liberia College was present and reported his very moderate degree of success in the collection of funds for the College, since his arrival in the United States. The Trustees then voted to secure the co-operation, if possible, of the New York Board and the American Colonization Society in Washington, in an appeal to the Rockefeller Foundation.

At the regular April meeting of the Board, "the Sec-

retary read two letters from Dr. E. C. Sage, President of the New York Colonization Society, in which he said that the General Education Board and the Rockefeller Foundation would be unable to help Liberia College: the former because the charter would not permit, the latter because education is not within its chosen field. The Secretary read a letter also from the Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation, stating that the Republic of Liberia is not within the scope of the work of that Corporation, according to its charter." A plan for attempting to interest American Negroes was then discussed.

At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations on June 13, there were present by invitation Dr. James H. Dillard, President of the Slater Foundation, Dr. Eben C. Sage, President of the New York State Colonization Society, and Mr. George A. Plimpton—these three being a committee of the New York Society, which could apply the income of one hundred thousand dollars for the benefit of Liberia, if convinced of its worthiness of confidence. After a long discussion of different suggestions for the rehabilitation of Liberia College, "Dr. Sage invited the delegates from the Trustees of Donations, the American Colonization Society, and the three churches most closely identified with educational work in Liberia—the Episcopalians, Methodists and Lutherans—to meet the New York Society" on June 25, at the expense of that Society.

The meeting in New York took place as appointed, on June 25. Fifteen delegates were present, including President Addison and Vice-President Bolton, of the Trustees of Donations, and the New York members who had been in Boston on June 13; also Bishop Lloyd. The

"Conference on the Development of Liberia College" was organized, with an Executive Committee composed of the Presidents of the American Colonization Society, the New York Colonization Society, and the Trustees of Donations, with Mr. Bolton as Secretary. It was resolved that this Committee should attempt to secure, for the use of Liberia College, some part of the proposed loan of the United States Government to the Republic of Liberia; that the Treasurers of the three societies represented should be requested to furnish a statement of their available funds; that each of the three Mission Boards interested should be requested to name a representative to act as a member of an Advisory Committee; that the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint sub-committees to assist in its work; that the plan proposed by Dr. Dillard, of sending one or more teachers from the United States to Liberia, be approved—such persons to be agreeable to President Cassell, to teach for one year, and to inform themselves in regard to conditions in Liberia.

At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held on September 16, 1919, President-elect Charles D. B. King, of the Republic of Liberia, was present and made a very favorable impression. At another meeting, on October 30, President Cassell was once more a guest.

Still another special meeting of the Boston Board was held December 16, at which letters from Dr. Sage and Dr. Cassell were read. "Dr. Sage announced the selection of Professor Benjamin Brawley, Dean of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Brawley, as teachers at Monrovia." The Board voted to appropriate for the use of Liberia College the sum of two thousand

dollars—five hundred of it for President Cassell's salary, six hundred for a woman teacher, as requested by Dr. Cassell, and nine hundred dollars "to be expended by Mr. H. F. Worley, our financial agent, on written authority from Dr. Cassell and President King."

In his report for 1919, Secretary Bolton says: "This has been the busiest year for a long period in the history of our Board. . . . We begin another year with pleasant relations established between ourselves and other organizations interested in Liberia. We have a more intimate acquaintance with the men who are to be prominent in Liberia during the next few years, and a better understanding of the financial possibilities connected with educational work in Monrovia. Our Board may well feel that the past year has been one of exceptional opportunity and the field for service mapped out by the benefactors whose funds we now administer never looked so promising as it does today." The report also referred to a Catalogue of Liberia College which had been printed during the year. It was compiled from material collected in Monrovia and contained "a list of graduates and former students at the College, and also valuable biographical memoranda never before accessible in this country."

In January, 1920, the Trustees of Donations had an opportunity to interview Professor and Mrs. Brawley, just before they left for Liberia. They remained in that country but a short time, as they both suffered from the effects of the climate and were obliged to return to the United States to regain their health.

About this time, with a view to improving health conditions in Liberia, the Trustees of Donations became

interested in the subject of tropical diseases and their mitigation, and sought the opinion of Dr. Solomon C. Fuller, a native Liberian living in Boston. In a letter to Secretary Bolton dated April 27, 1920, Dr. Fuller suggested that the Trustees of Donations "undertake a campaign for funds to furnish instruction in tropical diseases for the benefit of Liberia." Liberia College might do this, not by offering courses, "but by employing, perhaps in a modified manner, the methods of University Extension," by which "a knowledge of effective but simple methods of control could be widely disseminated."

In the spring of 1920 the Trustees of Donations received two long letters from President Cassell, dated April 17 and 19. The College opened with ceremony March first. There were soon assembled one hundred and twenty-six pupils, only three of them, however, in the College Department. The Liberian Government appropriated two thousand dollars towards the support of the College in 1920. Tuition fees were expected to yield three hundred and twenty dollars and the Trustees of Donations were to contribute through Mr. Worley nine hundred dollars, none of which had yet been received. Dr. Cassell was greatly disappointed at the sudden determination of Professor and Mrs. Brawley to give up their work and return to America, and says: "I am rather in doubt as to whether there is much wisdom in appointing colored Americans, paying their expenses to Liberia, to teach in the College."

After his return, Professor Brawley submitted a long report addressed to President Sage of the New York State Colonization Society and dated May 15, 1920. This



STREET SCENES IN MONROVIA

report is decidedly pessimistic in tone, very different from that made a few years earlier by Bishop Lloyd. Mr. Brawley says that the native tribes in the interior are of better stock than the Americo-Liberians on the coast and are being civilized by missionaries; they number about two millions and the coast people only forty thousand. Monrovia has about seven thousand inhabitants, including perhaps a hundred whites. In twenty-five years the native tribes will dominate the country. There is too much devotion to politics and too little to economic development. "The temper of the people is a combination of conservatism, aloofness, and self-satisfaction. They have departed little from the ideals that actuated the settlers a hundred years ago." The "whole system of education and life has not been without some elements of genuine culture. . . . Because the officials have had to compose many state documents and deliver many formal addresses, there has been developed in the country a tradition of good English speech. I was interested to see that boys and even girls of first year high school grade could quote numerous poems and talk intelligently about several political documents."

Mr. Brawley has much to say in this report of the poor physical condition of the people, due to insufficient food and bad sanitary surroundings. "In general the importance of education is not appreciated in the Republic. The profession of the teacher is accordingly not one held in high esteem." The missions of the Methodists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Baptists, and Presbyterians do most of the teaching. "The total number of children in all the schools of every sort is now not more

than ten thousand," out of a population estimated at about two million. For the last few years the work of Liberia College "has been suspended, except in what is known as the Preparatory Department." While President Cassell was in America, "the work seems to have been heroically and unselfishly carried on by two teachers, Professor T. W. Haynes and Mrs. M. M. Parker." The College building being now uninhabitable, "the school work has been conducted in the assembly room of the House of Representatives. . . . In general the Liberian children need discipline. They have had little rigorous training, but with firm handling they can do good work. They are ambitious and have considerable pride in their country; and I can never forget the thrill with which I first heard them sing their national anthem." Professor Brawley recommended: "That with reference to the public schools . . . consideration be given to the advisability of calling in conference the representatives of the different denominational boards now doing work in mission schools." In regard to the College, little should be spent on the building "until a definitely constructive program is presented by the Liberians themselves." Library and laboratory equipment should be supplied. Although Liberian teachers are not generally well trained, Americans should "be sent only in case a definite desire to have them is evinced." Mr. Brawley considered Presidents King and Cassell well fitted for their respective positions.

In a report made to the Trustees of Liberia College, after his return from America, President Cassell recommended a thorough revision of the curriculum, to be worked out in consultation with the Faculty; removal of

the College to an entirely new locality where sufficient land can be acquired for future expansion; the cultivation of closer relations with the Boston and New York Boards by seeking their advice on matters of policy; a course of instruction for teachers in school administration and pedagogy.

The Conference on the Development of Liberia College met in New York October 15, 1920. Delegates from the Boston and New York Boards and others, to the number of seven in all, were present. Dr. Addison was made chairman. The proposed loan of the United States Government to the Republic of Liberia was discussed, and it was voted that a committee of the Conference see the President-elect of the United States before his inauguration, in order to enlist his interest in Liberia. The general educational situation in Liberia was also debated at length. It was suggested that the advice of Dr. Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, be sought, as to securing for Liberia College the services of a native Liberian studying in the United States. This was afterwards done and Dr. Starr, who knew many such persons, named several whom he could recommend. Fear of a possible interference with President Cassell's plans, however, led to the project being dropped.

In accordance with a request received from this Conference, President Cassell submitted a report dated December 16, 1920, in which he pointed out the difficulties under which he was laboring, chiefly of a financial nature. The currency of the Republic had depreciated so greatly, as a result of the war, that the small salaries of the teachers were altogether insufficient for

their support. The sum of money held by Mr. Worley for disbursement on the joint order of Presidents King and Cassell would only be given up by him on terms to which they were unwilling to accede. Besides the President, who taught History, Hygiene, Science, and Agriculture, there were on the Faculty of the College, Professor T. E. Ward, in Algebra, English, French, and Latin; Professor T. W. Haynes, in Arithmetic, Geography, and Spelling; and three women teachers. There were one hundred and seventy-three pupils, all below college grade.

President Cassell made a financial report at the end of the year, by which it appeared that the income of Liberia College in 1920—cash actually received—was a little over thirty-eight hundred dollars. Of this about two thousand dollars was appropriated by the Liberian Government, eight hundred came from the New York Colonization Society, five hundred from the Trustees of Donations, and over two hundred from tuition and other fees, while slightly less than three hundred dollars represented the balance of the collections made in the United States by Dr. Cassell. The total expenditures for the year were less than thirty-five hundred dollars. The teachers' salaries were in arrears to the amount of nine hundred. The expenses for 1921 were estimated at forty-eight hundred and twenty, and the estimated resources were placed at forty-nine hundred dollars.

At a special meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held on December 13, 1920, Dr. W. E. B. Dubois was present as a guest of the Board. There was much discussion on this occasion. In Dr. Dubois' opinion a public school system was the first essential in Liberia and if that

were firmly established, a flourishing college would inevitably follow. "It would be of great benefit to the Negroes in this country if they could be induced to send a commission of their own people to study the conditions in Liberia." He believed that they would then be willing to take over a large part of the burden of educational matters in Liberia. He suggested a number of names of persons who would be suitable on such a commission or who might be able to give valuable advice.

XXV.

RECENT PROGRESS

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations in January, 1921, a cablegram from President Cassell was received which intimated that President King, of the Republic, "declined to assist in obtaining funds voted by this Board on December 16, 1919." It was decided to cable to Mr. Worley asking for a statement of his view of the situation.

In two letters, written January 15 and 21, Dr. Sage expressed regrets that Liberia College was obliged to expend so much energy on primary education; and he hoped to see a real college built up in the course of time.

At the October, 1921, meeting of the Boston Board, the Treasurer "reported that two hundred and fifty dollars, sent to Dr. Cassell in 1918 and lost on a ship which was torpedoed, has been recovered from the American Express Company after three years of effort." An invitation from Dr. Sage to a conference in New York, to meet Bishop Overs, was received. Bishop Walter Henry

Overs had recently arrived from Liberia and previous to his departure from that country, had written, under date of August 25, to Mr. George A. Plimpton, of the New York Colonization Society, on the subject of education. As the result of an endeavor to concentrate effort on the part of the various missions in Liberia and to avoid duplication, a conference had been held in Monrovia and a programme laid out calling for a Teachers' Training School; uniform grade work throughout all Liberia; a central book department at Monrovia; and a toning up of high schools and colleges.

At this October meeting the following appreciation of a late member of the Board, who had died on September 11, was presented by Dr. Bridgman and adopted: "The Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia would record their sense of loss through the recent death of Mr. Lindsay Swift, their fellow member. His sound judgment and cheery presence were greatly valued at our Council Table. Our respect for his character and attainments as well as our admiration for his personal qualities combine to make the memory of him sweet and enduring."

In his report for the year 1921, President Cassell says: "It is indeed gratifying to note that there is coming over the entire country the feeling that something more must be done for the education of the people of the country. This applies to all grades of education; namely, primary, secondary, and collegiate." The revival of the Collegiate Department of Liberia College, which in recent years had been without students, now seemed about to become an accomplished fact. At the beginning of 1922

seven students were prepared to enter the Freshman class and seven others were expected to be ready at the opening in March. Removal of the College is favored in this report and the absolute necessity of repairing the old building, if only for temporary use, is pointed out. The occupation of Government buildings cannot long be continued. Through the efforts of the Trustees of Donations "Liberia College is now in possession of the excellent plot of land and premises known as Mount Coffee Station, once under the late Mrs. Jennie Sharp. There is a good house on the tract of land and but for the question of transportation it would be a good locality to remove the College." A teaching staff of seven is necessary: three professors and three teachers, besides the person in charge of the Primary Division.

In a letter to Treasurer Hunnewell, of the Trustees of Donations, dated January 30, 1922, transmitting his report, President Cassell says that the Trustees of the College, at their annual meeting, January 10, had decided to repair the old building. In this letter he adds: "I have accomplished one of the ends which I had in view when I became President of the College, namely, to raise the standard of those matriculating into the College. The class which will enter in March will bear comparison favorably with any class which has entered since the establishment of the College."

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of Donations in January, 1922, it was voted "to appropriate not exceeding thirteen hundred dollars for Liberia College, of which four hundred dollars will be for the library. This money is to be sent to Mr. Worley and by him paid to the

Treasurer of the College on receiving in writing a statement of the purposes for which the money is desired." At the April meeting "the Treasurer was by vote authorized to send money directly to Dr. Cassell and to ask from him a statement as to the use to which the money would be put."

At the October, 1922, meeting of the Boston Trustees a letter from President Cassell dated April 29, 1922, was presented, in which he writes: "I am glad to report that we are right in the midst of our first term's work, have opened our Collegiate branch, have a fine staff, and are doing well."

The budget of Liberia College for 1922 was submitted by the President in a letter of May 30. The estimates amounted to \$5,380, including eighteen hundred dollars for the President's salary, six hundred each for three professors, lesser amounts for other teachers and officials, and four hundred dollars for books and general expenses.

At the Annual Meeting of the Trustees of Donations, held January 11, 1923, the Treasurer reported that the net income for the year would amount to about two thousand dollars. It was voted to appropriate five hundred dollars toward the salary of President Cassell and one thousand dollars for Liberia College. The Secretary, in his Report for 1922, spoke of the approaching publication of the History of the Board.

A letter from President Cassell to Treasurer Hunnewell, dated October 21, 1922, states that "the school year, which closes the middle of November, has been a fairly good one; we are arriving at the standard which I have

been working towards since my return from the United States."

Dr. Cassell wrote again, December 6, 1922: "Three students will enter the Sophomore class next year and three the Freshman class, thereby making six students in the College." Total number of students, including lower grades, eighty-five. "The scholastic year on the whole has been very good and much hard work has been done by both students and instructors." Besides the President, who teaches History and Hygiene, there are three Professors on the Faculty: John G. A. Richards, M.A., in Greek and Latin; Nathaniel H. S. Brownell, in Mathematics and Bookkeeping; and G. O. Marke, in English and French.

From a perspective of about sixty years we are able to get a comprehensive view of this institution of learning and to form general conclusions. The time, labor, and money expended by the Trustees of Donations seem justified. Small as the results will doubtless appear to many, measured by the number of degrees conferred, a careful and unbiased survey of the whole period will make evident an influence exercised by this little college by no means insignificant. The Board may well feel that the wisdom and foresight of its founders have borne fruit, though more abundant harvests have been and are still to be hoped for.

The people of Liberia, apparently lacking capacity of the practical sort to develop their great natural resources and accumulate wealth, have nevertheless maintained for three quarters of a century an orderly govern-

ment, free from revolution and with scarcely a serious disturbance, except occasional conflicts with native tribes. It cannot be doubted that a large share in this achievement must be accorded to Liberia College.

APPENDIX

A

ACT OF INCORPORATION
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty
An Act to incorporate the Trustees of Donations for
Education in Liberia

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Simon Greenleaf, George N. Briggs, Joel Giles, their associates and successors, are hereby made a Corporation, by the name of The Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia; with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, restrictions and liabilities, set forth in the forty-fourth chapter of the Revised Statutes.

Section 2. Said Corporation may hold real and personal estate to the value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars, the income whereof shall be applied to the promotion of Collegiate Education in Liberia, by the establishment and support of one or more seminaries of learning; and also, if necessary, to the training of proper instructors for the same, at the discretion of the Trustees.

House of Representatives, March 18, 1850.

Passed to be enacted.

Ensign H. Kellogg, Speaker.

In Senate, March 19, 1850.

Passed to be enacted.

Marshall P. Wilder, President.

March 19, 1850. Approved.

George N. Briggs.

B

By-Laws of the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia.¹

ARTICLE I

The number of Trustees shall not exceed *nine* [seven].

ARTICLE II

The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, *Vice President*, and Treasurer, to be selected from the Trustees, and a Secretary. They shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual meeting, and shall hold their offices till others are chosen in their stead. Any vacancies occurring during the year may be filled at any regular meeting.

ARTICLE III

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation, and he is authorized to direct special meetings to be called whenever he shall deem it expedient. In the absence of the President from any meeting, a President *pro tem.* shall be chosen.

¹ Revised May 1, 1909. Changes from the original text, and additions, are printed in italics, followed by the original wording, when changed, in brackets.

ARTICLE IV

The Treasurer shall give *such bond as may be approved by the Committee of Finance* [bond with sureties, to be approved by the Corporation], to secure the faithful discharge of the duties of his office. He shall have the custody of the funds, deeds, contracts, and evidences of property belonging to the Corporation. He shall expend the funds pursuant to votes of the Corporation, or shall invest the same in such manner as they shall by vote authorize and direct; and any moneys which he may have on hand uninvested, shall be deposited in his name, as Treasurer, in some Bank in Boston.

ARTICLE V

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Corporation, and keep a true record of all their votes and doings. He shall give notice of all meetings of the Corporation by a written or printed notice forwarded to each member, through the Post Office, at least *two* [four] days prior to the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI

There shall be stated meetings of the Corporation held on the *second Thursdays* [third Wednesdays] in January, April, July, and October in each year, and at each the record of the preceding meeting shall be read. The Secretary, or in his absence, any member of the Corporation, shall call special meetings when thereto required in writing by the President or any two members of the Corporation. The stated meeting to be held in the month of January in each year, shall be deemed the annual meet-

ing, at which the officers for the ensuing year shall be elected. *Three shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Corporation.*

ARTICLE VII

Any alterations or amendments of the By-Laws proposed at any meeting shall not be acted upon at the same, but the consideration thereof shall be postponed to some subsequent meeting. And in the notifications for such subsequent meeting, notice shall be given, that a proposition for modifying the By-Laws will then be acted on. And such modification shall not then be adopted unless a majority of all the members of the Corporation shall be in favor of the same.

C

TRUSTEES OF DONATIONS FOR EDUCATION IN LIBERIA

Presidents

- Hon. George Nixon Briggs, LL.D. May 11, 1850
resigned January 10, 1855
- Hon. Albert Fearing, January 10, 1855
died May 24, 1875
- Rev. Andrew Preston Peabody, D.D. April 22, 1876
resigned January 8, 1885
- Hon. Joseph Samuel Ropes, A.M. January 8, 1885
resigned October 8, 1895
- Rev. Judson Smith, D.D. January 14, 1896
died June 29, 1906
- Rev. Daniel Dulany Addison, D.D. January 10, 1907

Vice-Presidents

- Hon. Simon Greenleaf, LL.D. April 14, 1853
died October 6, 1853
- Hon. Albert Fearing, February 6, 1854
resigned January 10, 1855
- William Ropes, Esq. January 10, 1855
died March 11, 1869
- Rev. Judson Smith, D.D. March 19, 1885
resigned January 14, 1896
- Rev. Daniel Dulany Addison, D.D. January 14, 1896
resigned January 10, 1907
- Rev. Elnathan Ellsworth Strong, D.D. January 10, 1907
resigned January 11, 1912
- Charles Knowles Bolton, A.B. January 11, 1912

Treasurers

- Hon. Stephen Fairbanks, May 11, 1850
resigned March 29, 1862
- Charles Peter Clark, A.M. March 29, 1862
resigned October 8, 1862
- Charles Edward Stevens, Esq. October 8, 1862
died September 14, 1899
- Rev. George Moulton Adams, D.D. October 12, 1899
died January 11, 1906
- Francis Everett Blake, LL.D. February 8, 1906
resigned February 13, 1914
- James Melville Hunnewell, LL.B. March 26, 1914

Secretaries

- Rev. Joseph Tracy, May 11, 1850
died March 24, 1874

- James Chandler Braman, Esq. April 11, 1874
resigned December 21, 1909
Francis Everett Blake, LL.D. January 13, 1910
resigned February 13, 1914
Charles Knowles Bolton, A.B. March 26, 1914

Trustees

- Hon. George Nixon Briggs, LL.D. April 27, 1850
resigned October 14, 1859
Hon. Simon Greenleaf, LL.D. April 27, 1850
died October 6, 1853
Hon. Stephen Fairbanks, April 27, 1850
died September 10, 1866
Hon. William Joseph Hubbard, A.M. April 27, 1850
died November 14, 1864
Hon. Joel Giles, LL.B. April 27, 1850
resigned January 13, 1858
Hon. Albert Fearing, April 27, 1850
died May 24, 1875
Amos Adams Lawrence, A.M. April 27, 1850
resigned July 11, 1860
William Ropes, Esq. October 29, 1853
died March 11, 1869
Francis Osborn Watts, A.M. January 13, 1858
died September 28, 1860
George Washington Thayer, Esq. July 11, 1860
resigned January 13, 1869
James Sullivan Warren, A.M. August 3, 1860
resigned January 9, 1867
Andrew Townshend Hall, Esq. January 9, 1861
resigned October 12, 1864

- Abner Kingman, Esq. October 12, 1864
resigned May 1, 1879
- Hon. Emory Washburn, LL.D. January 11, 1865
died March 18, 1877
- Hon. Linus Child, A.B. January 9, 1867
died August 26, 1870
- Charles Edward Stevens, Esq. January 9, 1867
died September 14, 1899
- Hon. Benjamin Franklin Thomas, LL.D.
January 13, 1869 resigned January 13, 1870
- Samuel Eliot, LL.D. August 19, 1869.
- Hon. Joseph Samuel Ropes, A.M. January 13, 1870
resigned April 14, 1896
- James Parker Melledge, Esq. January 13, 1870
died March 22, 1881
- Benjamin Tyler Reed, A.B. October 26, 1870
died March 29, 1874
- Rev. Andrew Preston Peabody, D.D. April 11, 1874
resigned January 8, 1885
- Hon. George Washington Warren, A.M. May 17, 1877
died May 13, 1883
- Hon. Jacob Sleeper, May 17, 1877
died March 31, 1889
- James Chandler Braman, Esq. May 1, 1879
resigned December 21, 1909
- Rev. John Oliver Means, D.D. April 22, 1880
died December 8, 1883
- William Endicott, A.M. June 9, 1881
resigned January 8, 1885
- Rev. Elnathan Ellsworth Strong, D.D.
December 10, 1883 resigned January 11, 1912

- Samuel Dennis Warren, Esq. December 10, 1883
died May 11, 1888
- Rev. Judson Smith, D.D. January 8, 1885
died June 29, 1906
- Hamilton Andrews Hill, A.M. January 8, 1885
died April 27, 1895
- William Ropes Trask, LL.B. April 11, 1889
- Rev. George Moulton Adams, D.D. October 8, 1891
died January 11, 1906
- Rev. Daniel Dulany Addison, D.D. July 9, 1895
- Francis Everett Blake, LL.D. January 11, 1900
resigned February 13, 1914
- Charles Knowles Bolton, A.B. January 13, 1910
- Rev. Howard Allen Bridgman, D.D. February 13, 1914
resigned October 19, 1922
- Charles Eliot Goodspeed, Esq. February 13, 1914
- William Orr, A.M. February 13, 1914
resigned October 6, 1916
- Lindsay Swift, A.B. February 13, 1914
died September 11, 1921
- James Melville Hunnewell, LL.B. March 26, 1914
- Gardner Weld Allen, M.D. January 9, 1919
- Ernest Albert Hooton, PH.D. January 9, 1919
- William Marshall Warren, PH.D. October 19, 1922

NOTES. The office of president was vacant at times, notably from May, 1875, to April, 1876; that of vice-president from 1869 to 1885. Temporary chairmen presided at meetings.

The first secretary, Mr. Tracy, and Mr. Clark, treasurer, never became trustees. Messrs. Stevens and Braman served several years as treasurer and secretary before their election as members of the Board.

There is no mention of Mr. Eliot in the records after his election in 1869 and it may be assumed that he declined.

D FUNDS

1860	\$10,000. ¹
1870	12,000.
1880	34,000.
1890	36,000.
1900	42,000.
1910	44,000.
1920	50,000.

ITEMIZED STATEMENT, JANUARY 1, 1920

Fearing Educational Fund	\$22,619.85
Fearing Library Fund	11,845.77
General Educational Fund	13,000.15
Investment Reserve	2,830.00
	\$50,295.77

¹ These figures are approximate.

E

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Manuscript:

Records—two volumes

Letter Books—six volumes (1853-1906)

Letters and miscellaneous papers (1848-1922)—
a voluminous collection.

Printed:

Reports of the Trustees in six volumes (1851 to 1855,
inclusive, and 1865)

Catalogue of Liberia College and Historical Register.
1919.

Pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, circulars, etc.

Histories and encyclopædias (for facts and statistics
relating to Liberia, etc.)

In addition to the illustrations in this book, other
portraits and views may be found in

Presidents of Liberia. By T. H. B. Walker. Jackson-
ville, Fla., 1915.

Liberia. By Sir Harry Johnston. London, 1906.

Liberia. Bulletins of the American Colonization So-
ciety. Nos. 1 to 35. 1892-1909.

National Magazine. March, 1854.

National Geographic Magazine. September, 1910,
October, 1922.

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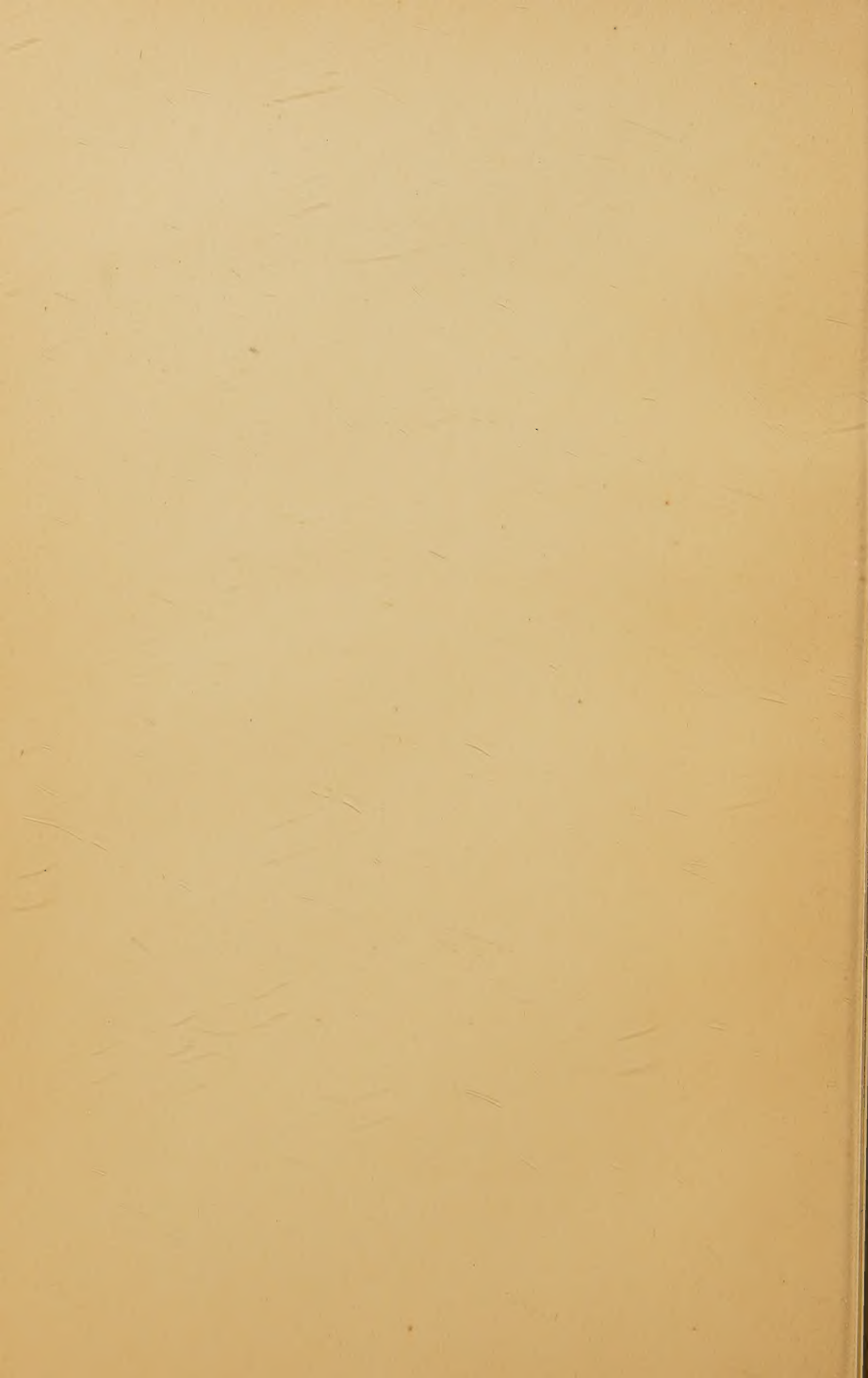
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